

It's Our SUPER Summer Issue! ★ A GIANT Color-In Poster

July/August 2014

American Girl

americangirlmagazine.com

15 splashy
water games

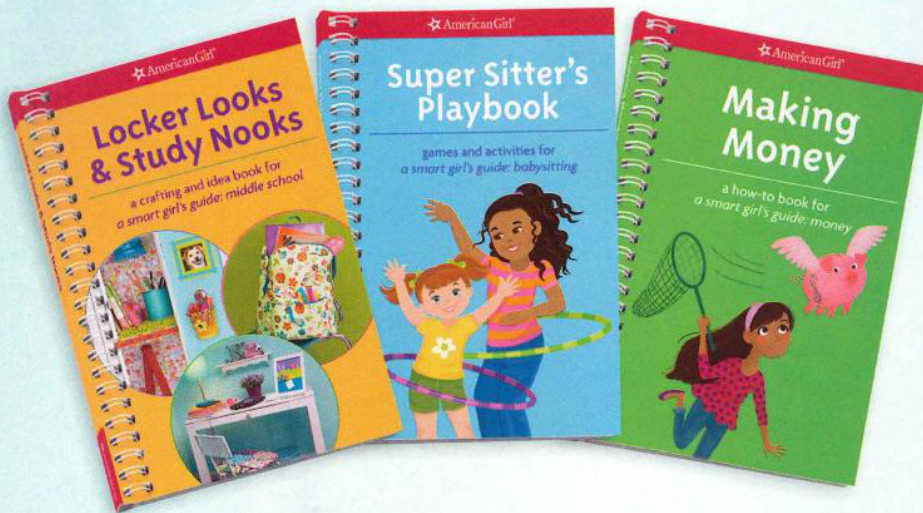
* Delicious
ice cream
treats to make

* Meet real girl
writers

Plus!
How to fasten
homemade bracelets



Smart advice for back-to-school



Back-to-school has never been so much fun!

Find great advice and ideas to get the school year started right. Packed with quizzes, tips, craft ideas, and more, these three activity titles are the perfect companions to our ever-popular Smart Girl's Guide series. Ages 10 and up.

PLUS: even more expert tips and guidance with the updated Smart Girl's Guide advice titles!



American Girl®



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Jean McKenzie

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Jodi Goldberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Barbara E. Stretchberry

SENIOR EDITOR
Mary Richards Beaumont

LIFESTYLE EDITOR
Andrea Debbink

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Shelby Deering
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Darcie Johnston

SENIOR MANAGER, CREATIVE
Douglas Bantz

ART DIRECTORS
Dan Nordskog, Paula Riley
CONTRIBUTING ART DIRECTOR
Sarah Boecher

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Paula Moon

MASTER GRAPHIC ARTIST
Lisa Bunesco

SENIOR GRAPHIC ARTIST
Kristi Tabrizi

CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Kitson Jazynka

MARKETING MANAGERS
D'Ann Jackson, Shawn Niebeling
SENIOR CIRCULATION COORDINATOR
Heather Hempel Gomez

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Patti Kelley Criswell, Meagan Eggers,
Judith Lary, Jeff Netervall, Cynthia Reynolds,
Jolene Schulz, Mark Speltz, Youa Thao, Ann Marie Yeap

Cover Credits: Wardrobe styling: Aubre Andrus. Hair: Gina Barrington.

AMERICAN GIRL® (ISSN 1062-7812, Canadian Sales Agreement Number 40635507) is published bimonthly by American Girl Publishing, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. Copyright © 2014 American Girl. All rights reserved. Subscription rates: One year (six issues) \$24.95. Non-U.S. subscriptions \$29 U.S. funds. Single issues (current or back copies) \$4.95. Prices subject to change. Periodical postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to American Girl, PO Box 5535, Harlan IA 51593-1035.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: 800-234-1278. SUBSCRIBERS: Send change of address information six weeks before moving to American Girl, PO Box 5535, Harlan IA 51593-1035. Send old address label (recent mailing label is best), new address, and new telephone number, or call 800-234-1278. Occasionally, American Girl makes its list of adult and family names available to other reputable companies for their offering of products and services. We make every effort to ensure that girls' names are not included on this list. If you prefer not to receive such mail, please call our customer service department at 800-234-1278 or write to us at 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. EDITORIAL OFFICES: American Girl, Editorial Department, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton WI 53562. American Girl Publishing cannot accept liability for loss or damage of photographs or other materials. Unsolicited materials will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All submissions received by American Girl become the sole property of American Girl Publishing and may be used by American Girl Publishing or its parent or affiliated companies without compensation or acknowledgment. Even though instructions have been tested and results from testing were incorporated into this magazine, all recommendations and suggestions are made without any guarantees on the part of American Girl. Because of differing tools, materials, ingredients, conditions, and individual skills, the publisher disclaims liability for any injuries, losses, or other damages that may result from using the information in this magazine. Not all craft materials are tested to the same standards as toy products. American Girl®, Follow Your Inner Star®, Girls Express®, and According to Aggie® are trademarks of American Girl. American Girl trademarks cannot be used without the express written consent of American Girl.

AMERICAN GIRL IS PUBLISHED BY
AMERICAN GIRL PUBLISHING
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton WI 53562
E-mail address: readermail@americangirl.com
americangirlmagazine.com



Recommended by
Parents' Choice,
2014



American Girl®

Printed in the USA on paper containing at least 10% post-consumer waste.
Recycle me or pass me on to a friend.

10% post-consumer waste

Volume 22, Number 4

Contents

Follow Your Inner Star®



Girls Express 2

Contest 8

Cute Critters

Speak Up! 10

Travel

According to Aggie 12

Flower Power

Cooking 14

Frosty Favorites

Frosty Favorites,
page 14



Lucky Stars 40



Lucky Stars,
page 40

AG's Puzzle Page 48

Posters 49

Help! 53

Behind the Scenes 56

Plus AG's Super Summer Poster



Write On! 18

Splash Zone 22

Here's How 30

Finish a Bracelet

Bright Blooms 32

Quiz 35

Happy Campers



Safety first!

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help.

When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

Girls

E X P R E S S

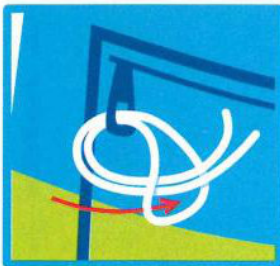
Bead It!

Use colorful plastic beads to decorate your summer stuff.

Make a Zipper Pull



- * Fold cording in half.
- * Slip the loop through a zipper pull.



- * Slip the ends through the loop. Pull tight.
- * Add beads and knot ends to finish.



Meet an AG Reader

Madelyn C.
Age 11, Florida



This is Prince.
So cute!

In my free time, I like to listen to music, play with my Chihuahua puppy, Prince, and dance my heart out! I also like to play store with my mom.

My favorite snack: watermelon



My proudest day: The day I made the dance team

A word that describes me: sensitive

One thing people wouldn't guess about me: That I once had pet snails and frogs

A time I wanted to disappear: That was the day a boy accidentally pushed me down the stairs in front of our entire class. I did forward rolls the whole way down!

My favorite part of AG: I like the quizzes—they give great advice and are so much fun.

Introduce Yourself!

To find out how to be a featured reader, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine



Elena D.
Age 11, Wisconsin

AG Art Gallery

Spend the summer building up your portfolio of artwork, the way Elena did!

Help us fill our gallery!
Send color copies of
your **original artwork**
or **photos** to the address
on page 7. Sorry, we
can't return entries.



Mini Quiz

Flipper Trip

Which adorable aquarium animal matches your personality?

1. After school this fall, you'd probably sign up for
 - a. intramural kickball.
 - b. a yoga class.
 - c. volunteer club.
2. On a vacation this summer, you'd be happiest
 - a. exploring caves and forests.
 - b. going on a zip-line tour.
 - c. interacting with animals.
3. Besides stores, your favorite spot in the mall is
 - a. the cool staircases.
 - b. the big central fountain.
 - c. the food court.
4. In your dream bedroom, you'd have
 - a. a trampoline.
 - b. a huge picture window.
 - c. a big screen for video-chatting with friends.
5. At the pool, you'd probably be
 - a. playing a crazy water game with a bunch of other kids.
 - b. making a perfect dive off the board.
 - c. treading water and chatting with friends.

Answers

Mostly b's
You're a graceful dolphin!

Mostly a's
You're an energetic otter!

Mostly c's
You're a friendly sea lion!

Shining Star

Instead of each having their own 10th birthday parties, friends Ali, Ella, and Haley joined forces to share a whopping double-digit pool party. Their goal? To have fun together and raise money for an animal shelter near their New Jersey homes. "We asked for donations instead of gifts," Ella explains.

"It's always better to give than receive," says Haley, who made a big poster for the party, including pictures of dogs at the shelter. "Sometimes you want to give it all away, and that's what we wanted to do."

The girls set up a collection box at their party, where more than 90 guests danced, swam, and ate. Later on, when the birthday girls counted the money, "it kept adding up and up," Ali says. The girls had raised almost \$1,000, a lot more than they'd expected. After they announced the good news, their friends serenaded the three girls.

"Everyone can be good," Ali says, "like putting coins in a donation can at a store. But if you believe in yourself, you can be great. It felt great to donate as much as we did."



Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

How would you describe your closest friend?

- * creative
- * funny
- * trustworthy
- * kind

What was your most embarrassing moment?

- * tripping and falling in front of others
- * messing up a song or speech
- * spilling something on yourself
- * saying something really silly

What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

- * vanilla
- * mint chocolate chip
- * strawberry
- * caramel swirl

AG Poll

What girls told us online

Girls' closest friends are



43%

funny.

21%

trustworthy.

21%

kind.

15%

creative.

I love baby food!



Most embarrassing is

48%

saying something really silly.

19%

tripping and falling in front of others.

17%

messing up a song or speech.

16%

spilling something on yourself.

Favorite ice cream flavor is



48%

mint chocolate chip.

26%

vanilla.

15%

caramel swirl.

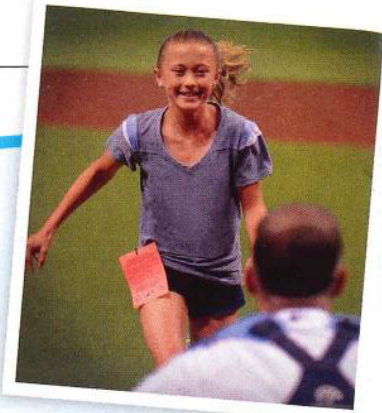
11%

strawberry.

Girls Express

True Story

Alayna's dad was deployed overseas. But wait—that ballplayer kind of looked like ...



Dear American Girl,

It's pretty hard to have your dad gone for a whole year, especially when you're as close as my dad and I are. Every year, he makes me a photo album with pictures from the past year. Usually there are a lot of photos of us together, but there weren't many for the year he was deployed to Afghanistan.

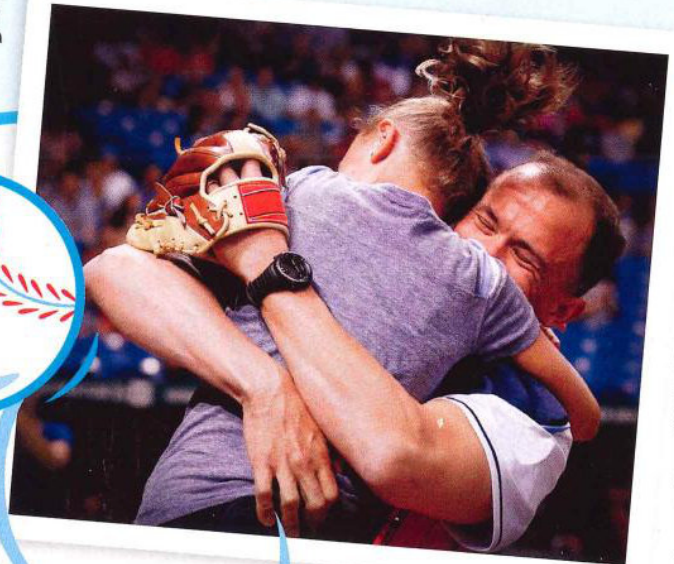
While he was away, my mom and I got invited to an event for military families at a major league baseball game. I got to throw out the first pitch in front of thousands of fans. Beforehand, a video of my dad played on the big screen. He said he missed us and that he'd be home soon. I missed him so much in that moment.

When it was time, I pitched the ball, and the catcher caught it. Then he took his mask off. I had to close my eyes and open them again because I thought I was imagining things. The catcher was actually my dad! I ran to hug him. Cameras flashed. It looks like this year, my photo album won't be so empty after all.

Sincerely,

Alayna A.

Age 10, Florida



To answer our weekly poll question, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine



Screen Time

Stay safe in the summer sun.

When:

Any day—whether it's sunny or cloudy, hot or cool

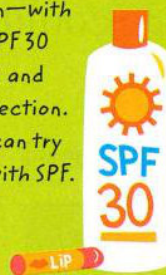
Who:

Any girl, no matter her skin color



What to bring:

Sunscreen—with at least SPF 30 with UVA and UVB protection. You also can try lip balm with SPF.



When to apply:

At least 30 minutes before going outside and every few hours throughout the day—especially after swimming or sweating



How much:

Enough that you should have to work to rub it in



Where:

Everywhere! Be sure not to forget these spots:

Ears, nose, and lips



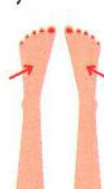
The part in your hair



The back of your neck



The tops of your feet



What else to bring:

Sunglasses and a hat to shade your face and neck



See you outside!

Write to Us

Be sure to include your

- * First and last name
- * Address and phone number
- * Birth date, including year
- * School photo or other portrait
- * Parent's signature

Send us a cool envelope! Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon! ★



Envelope art by
Payton H.
Age 13, Ontario



Cute Critters

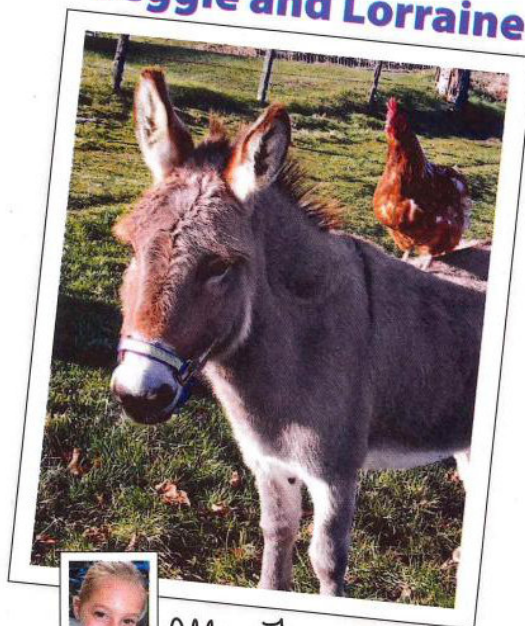
Can you look at these girls' pictures of their pets without saying "Aww"? We sure couldn't!

Qloe



Alicia R.
Age 12, California

Veggie and Lorraine



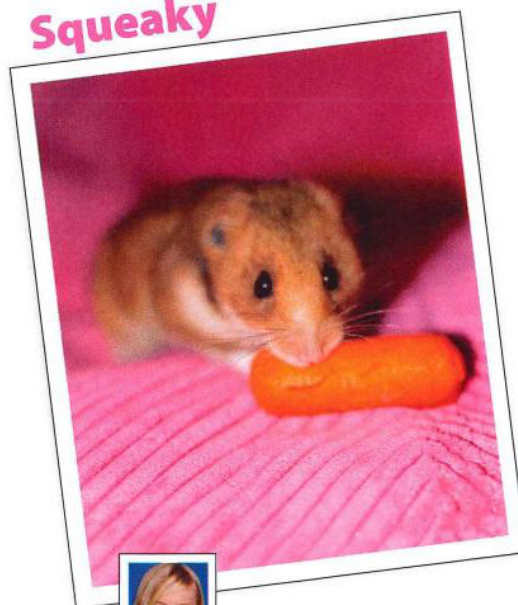
Chlöe J.
Age 12, New Hampshire

Walnut



Erin J.
Age 12, Washington

Squeaky



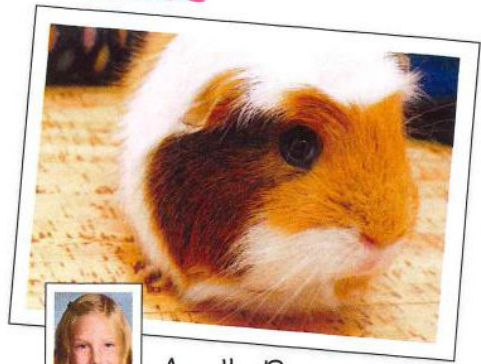
Sarah L.
Age 10, Florida

Lucas



Lela H.
Age 9, California

Cheese



Avielle D.
Age 8, Wisconsin

Sunny



Ava M.
Age 10, Colorado

Marigold



Emma S.
Age 8, Massachusetts

Eric and Jake



Maegann H.
Age 12, Idaho

Charlie



Melina A.
Age 13, Washington

New Contest: Out of This World!

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to discover a new planet? Now's your chance to create one of your own! Draw a picture of your planet, and be sure to give it a name, too. Send your stellar drawings to the address on page 7 and follow the instructions. Postmark deadline: August 11, 2014. Winners will appear in the January/February 2015 issue. Sorry—we can't return entries. ★



Travel

You travel by

car

77%

plane

23%

78%

of you love
to pack your
own suitcase.

19%

bring your pet with
you on vacation.

You're usually off to

6%

sleepaway
camp.

61%

a fun place for
a vacation.

Vacation Ahead

If you could go anywhere, you'd choose a

tropical beach	40%
foreign country	34%
theme park	9%
dude ranch	9%
big city	8%

80%

of you have traveled in a car for more than 500 miles.

Favorite souvenirs to bring back

stuffed animal

seashells

necklace

key chain

postcard

ornament

33%

visit faraway family members.

Coming Up: Books

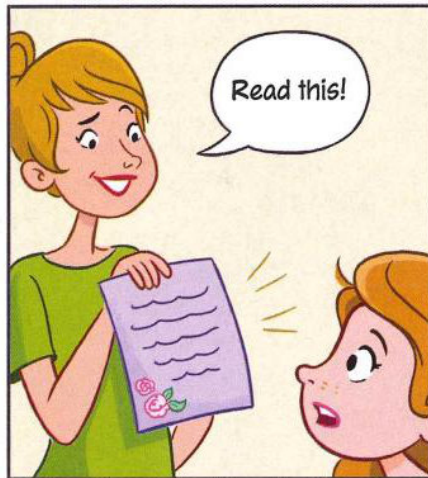
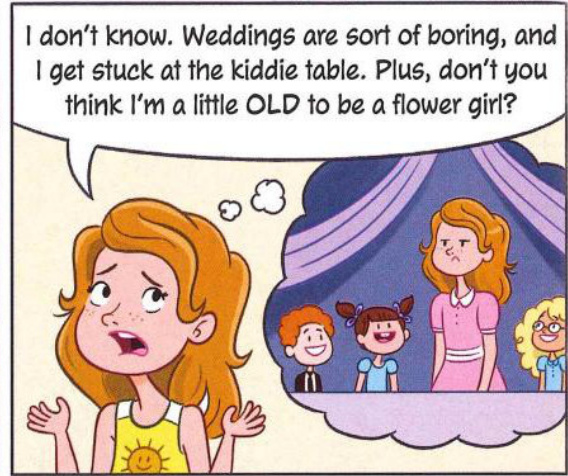
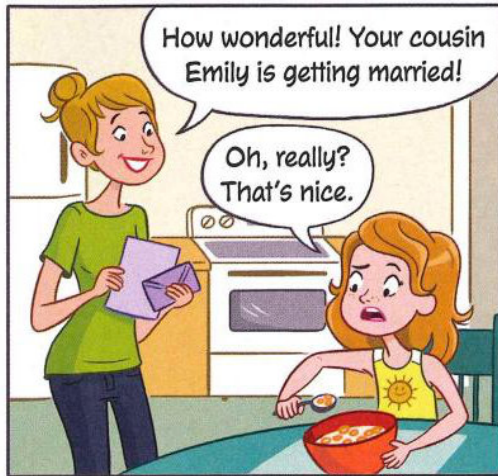
1. Where do you get most of your books?
a. Library
b. Bookstore
c. An online e-book store
d. Friends
e. Gifts
2. Have you ever read a novel that's longer than 500 pages?
Yes or No
3. Are you more likely to read for school or for fun?
4. Would you rather read the book or see a movie that's based on the book?
5. What section do you usually head to first in a library?
6. Where do you like to read?
a. A corner in your bedroom
b. By a window
c. Outside
d. Snuggled next to a pet
e. At the library
7. What would the title of your autobiography be?

Send your answers to the address on page 7, along with your first and last name, address, school or portrait-style photo, and birth date. Postmark deadline: August 11, 2014. Some answers will appear in the January/February 2015 issue. ★

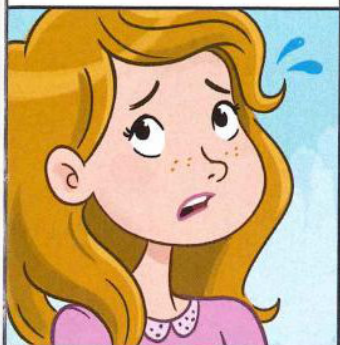
According to Aggie™

Flower Power

by Laura Dower and Genevieve Kote



But as the weeks went on, I started to worry. What if I didn't do a good job?



What if I tripped and fell flat on my face?



What if I got...urp...sick?



What if I was just clumsy and ... ?

You ruined my wedding!



By the time the wedding arrived, I was so nervous. And then something terrible happened.



Emily's puppy wrecked her bouquet.

What do I do now?



I remembered something I'd seen out back. This could come in handy!



Em, I think I can help.



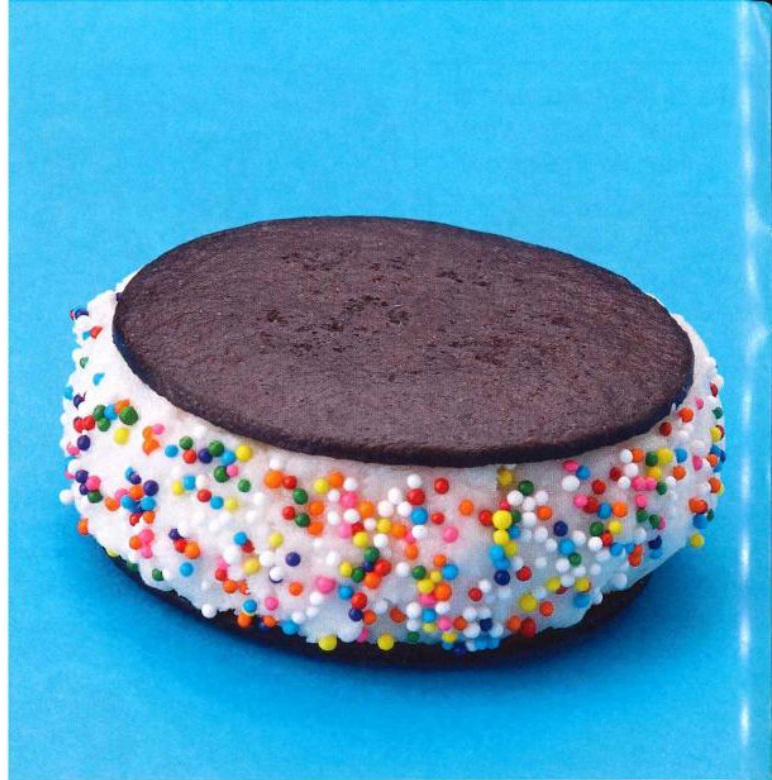
In the end, I guess I was a flower girl after all.



Don't miss my next misadventure:

CLOTHES CALL





Frosty Favorites

No need to wait for the ice cream truck!
Try homemade versions of these cool treats.



Dipped Cone

Turn a plain ice cream cone into a chocolate-dipped treat! Scoop some vanilla ice cream into a sugar cone. Coat the ice cream with chocolate Magic Shell® topping. Before the chocolate hardens, top with nuts, sprinkles, or candy. Let set.





Ice Cream Sandwich

A sweet sandwich makes a delicious dessert. Spread ice cream—try mint chocolate chip or vanilla—between two chocolate wafer cookies. Roll

the sides of the sandwich in mini chocolate chips or sprinkles. Place the sandwich in the freezer until the ice cream hardens.

Frozen Lemonade

 Make a refreshing citrus slushie. Pour 1 cup water, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lemonade concentrate, and 2 cups ice cubes in a blender. Ask an adult to blend well. Pour into cups and serve with straws.



Orange Dream

Cool off with a frozen float! Scoop vanilla ice cream into a 7-oz. disposable cup, filling the cup about one-third full. Press ice cream firmly into the bottom. Insert a food-safe stick into the ice cream.

Slowly pour orange juice into the cup until it is almost full. Cover the top of the cup with foil, poking the end of the stick through the foil. Freeze overnight, then remove the foil and cup.

Tri-Color Treat

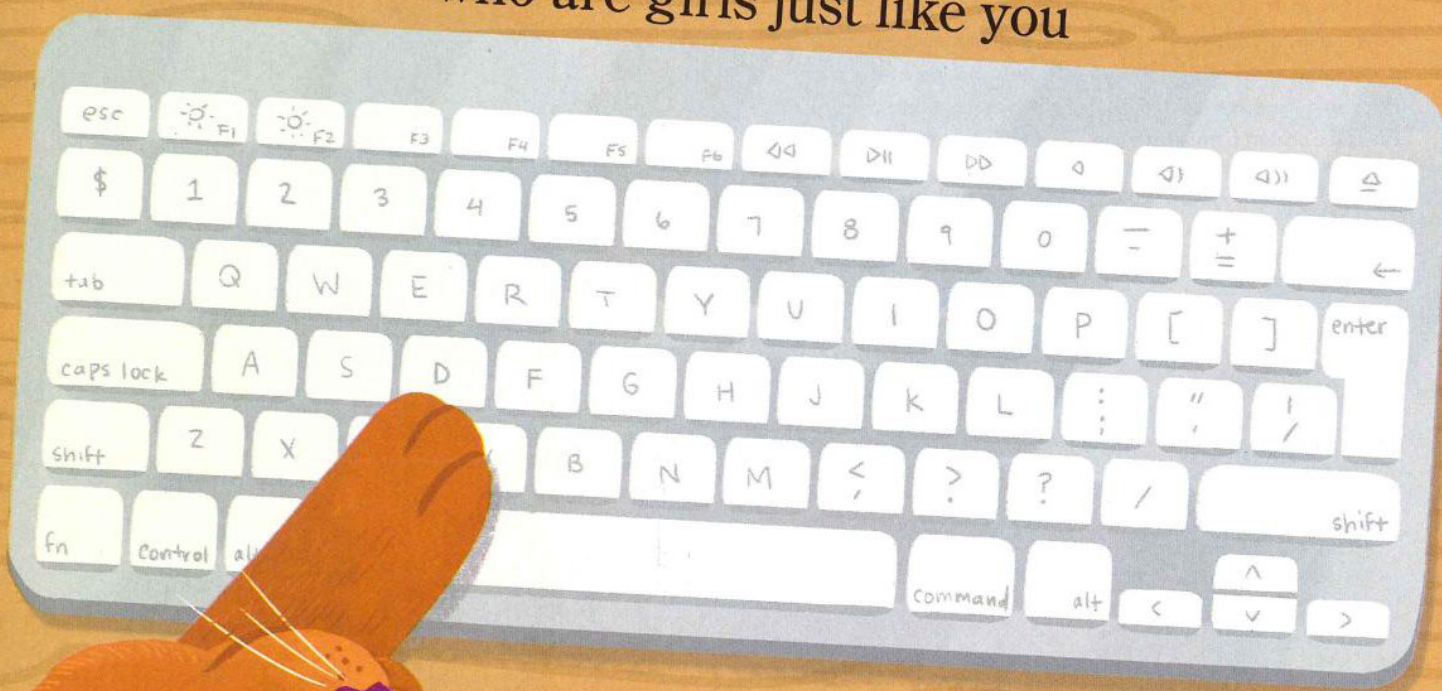
Make a patriotic pop that's red, white, and blue. You'll need three flavors of unsweetened powdered drink mix: cherry, lemonade, and blue raspberry. Make each flavor as directed on the package. Fill a 7-oz. disposable cup one-third full with the cherry drink. Cover the cup with foil and

poke a food-safe stick in the middle. (The foil will hold the stick in the center of the pop until the first layer freezes.) Freeze until solid, about two hours. Repeat with the other flavors, freezing after each one. Once the entire treat is frozen, remove the cup for a striped pop! ★



Write On!

Here's the word on three writers
who are girls just like you



My cat Frieda
walking all over
the keyboard

Dog toys that the dog
dropped at my feet to get
me to come and play

Computer monitor

Journal



Abbey R.
Age 9, California
Book Author

Last year, my dog Leo was bitten and badly injured by another dog. He didn't feel good, and it made me really sad. Writing always makes me feel better. I had a friend whose grandmother helped her write a book. I asked her to help me, too. I wrote about Leo's injury and his recovery. Afterward, I was happy because I could share his story. I love stories with happy endings, especially when they're mine.

I worked on my story every Saturday morning—thinking, drafting, revising, and collecting photographs to use to design the pages. It took a lot of Saturdays. Then the book was published.

The day the box arrived with my first copies, I was so excited. I got business cards, too. My job title? "Author and artist." I had a book event and signed copies of my book for other people. It was nice!

It wasn't long before I started brainstorming about other books I could write. Of course, I thought of my pets—my other dog, Charlie Brown, and my two cats, Frieda and Stella. They all have different personalities, like how Charlie loves to play with his toys and Leo is more of a cuddler.

If you can believe it, I wrote and published three more books (one about each of my other pets). Now I'm working on another one, this time about horseback riding.

Writing books about things I love is important to me (even though spelling is hard sometimes). One of my friends asked me to help her write a book. Of course, I said yes! During recess at school, we work on our story (it's fiction), writing in a little journal that my friend got as a gift. So far, the story is about a girl from New York who goes on a field trip to San Francisco. That's all I can say for now—the rest is a secret 'til it's published!

Words of Wisdom on Writing: Follow your heart and write about what you love.



Paper and a pen



Maple B.
Age 11, Ohio
Online Magazine Publisher

I have loved writing for as long as I can remember. When I was two years old, I dictated stories to my mom. When I was three, I started typing the stories myself. At age eight, I launched a funny online magazine for my family, friends, and teachers.

In the two years since then, I've published the magazine bimonthly, or every other month. I don't like to call too much attention to what I write. It's something I do just for fun.

I write most of the content myself, but readers submit stories, too. In a recent issue I included a silly poem about a cat written by my cousin Eliza. She's five and, like me, loves to write.

People sometimes ask where I get my ideas. A lot of my ideas come from reading books and websites. The more I read, the more inspired I get, like with ideas for nonfiction items about sports, holidays, and people or good books to review. I also write poems, plays, and stories for the magazine. When I write fiction, like about a spaceship from Mars or something, I try to be as outrageous as possible. I like writing about things that could never happen. It's exciting!

It's fun to see all the different pieces come together in one place. I love when a magazine issue is done and I can read through the whole thing. Sometimes I go back and look at what I wrote when I first started out. It's not the same as how I write now. I guess you could say I've learned a lot along the way.

Words of Wisdom on Writing: Don't forget that you can always get better at doing something, even if you're already pretty good.



A special notebook where I keep notes and jot down ideas



Meowzers, my special stuffed cat

Laptop

Silly Sally
 by Eliza C.

[Handwritten scribbles representing the poem]



Laptop

Earbuds (When I'm writing, I listen to classical music to help my brain think.)

Paper and pen



Hot chocolate (it's cold where I live!)

A stapler for rough drafts



Aaliyah K.
Age 11, Minnesota
News Reporter

I'm the kind of girl who always has questions. I'm always wondering about the world and everything about it—from global warming to the kids at my school. Sometimes I ask other kids questions about their lives, and they ask me why I'm asking. I say, "I'm curious!" I love journalism, which is all about investigating, reporting, and publishing information for other people to read.

My writing career started when I was really little. I made up stories about ponies and princesses. I still love creative writing. Sometimes I sit in my backyard and write about our beautiful green trees. But these days, I'm mostly into gathering information (by reading and asking questions, mainly) and reporting about what I find out. I've learned a lot about the world. Like, after Hurricane Sandy, I heard a lot of stories about how people helped each other. Then I wrote about it.

My dad's in the entertainment business. Once I was talking with one of his friends, a famous singer, and she said I asked a lot of good questions. She also said I should keep it up, so that's what I did. Now I love interviewing actors and famous musicians and getting all the facts. Sometimes I'm nervous before an interview, but that pushes me to work harder. Later, when I'm organizing the paragraphs, it's really fun. I have a blog (that's an online journal) where I post videos of my interviews and write about the interviews. I hope to interview celebrities on the red carpet someday.

Almost everything about writing and being a journalist is fun, but I can be pretty hard on myself. Some days, I edit and edit, and everything seems wrong. But when my mom reads my work and tells me it's good, I feel great. She's very honest with me, so when she says it's good, I know it is.

Words of Wisdom on Writing: To revise your work, try peer-editing with your friends. You can get great suggestions and feedback. ★

Splash Zone

15 ways to cool off
this summer!

Handy Spray



Turn a glove into a handmade sprinkler! Ask an adult to cut tiny holes in the fingertips of a rubber glove. Place the glove on a hose, and secure it with a rubber band. Slowly turn on the hose. The water will fill the glove and spray out the fingers!



Bash and Splash



Take a swing at a water piñata. Fill a plastic grocery bag with water balloons. Ask an adult to loop a rope through the bag's handles and hang it outside in an open area. Then take turns trying to break open the bag.

Each player wears a blindfold and spins around three times before taking her turn. (Be sure to use a plastic bat and give each player plenty of space.) When a player hits the piñata, watch out for a burst of water!

Balloon Blaster

It's a wet race to the finish! Mark a starting and ending point in the yard. Give each player a squirt bottle and an inflated balloon. On "Go!" each player moves her balloon along by squirting it with water. The first balloon to cross the finish line wins.





Silly Salon

Give a friend a new 'do. First, have everyone cover her hair with a swim cap or shower cap. Then take turns covering each other's swim cap with kid-safe foam soap. Shape the foam

into crazy "hairstyles," and have a crazy hair fashion show. When you're finished, stand over a bucket and spray off the foam with a hose.



Fill or Flood?

For this game, each player wears an old T-shirt over a swimsuit and holds up the bottom of the T-shirt to make a basket. On "Go!" each player has 30 seconds to fill her T-shirt with as many water balloons as she can. When time's up, everyone removes and counts her water balloons (broken ones don't count). The girl who has collected the most balloons wins.

Splashdown

This slippery challenge takes teamwork. First, fill a bucket with water balloons. Then have everyone lie next to each other. The person next to the bucket grabs a balloon and places it between her feet. Then she tries to pass it to the person next to her, using only her feet. If you drop the balloon, you must start over. See if you can pass the balloons from one end of the line to the other without dropping any. If you drop one, look out below!



Bubble Trouble

Burst some bubbles! Divide your friends into two teams and assign each team a color. Blow up the same number of balloons in each team's color and put them in a kiddie pool. On "Go!" each team tries to pop their own "bubbles" by sitting on them. The team who pops all their balloons first wins.



Safety first!
When swimming or doing pool activities, always make sure an adult is present.

Rainy Relay

Every drop counts! Divide into pairs. Give one partner an empty plastic cup and the other partner a cup full of water. On "Go!" the partner with the

water tries to pour it from her cup to her partner's. The trick? You each have to hold the cup on your head! The pair with the fullest cup wins.



Clap and Splat

In this game, make a good catch to stay dry. Toss a water balloon straight up, and see how many times you can clap before catching it. Take turns with your friends. If you drop the balloon and it doesn't break, you get to go again. If the balloon breaks, you're out. The person who can clap the most times and still catch the balloon wins.



Capture the Balloons

Use water balloons for a wet version of "capture the flag." First, divide into teams and give each team the same number of water balloons. Each team should place their balloons in the same spot on opposite sides of the yard. Once the game begins, each team has to guard their balloons but also try to pop the other team's balloons. Whichever team pops all the other team's balloons first wins.

Ready, Aim, Water!

Try to hit a target and make a splash. Place a hula hoop on the far side of the yard for a target and give each player a wet sponge. One at a time, blindfold each player and have her throw her sponge. After she throws, the player has to stand wherever her sponge landed while the rest of the players take their turns. Whoever gets closest to the target wins, and whoever gets in the way gets wet!



Quick Art

 Decorate yourself with designs that wash away. Use nontoxic bath crayons to draw temporary tattoos on your arms and legs. (Ask an adult to make sure it's safe to use them on your skin.) Run through the sprinkler when it's time to wash off!



Icy Dip

Catch as many cubes as you can. Pour a small bucket of ice cubes into a kiddie pool. On "Go!" each player tries to get as many ice cubes as she can from the pool—using only a plastic spoon! When time's up, the player with the most ice cubes wins.





Finders Keepers

In this scavenger hunt, you throw what you find. Before you play, ask an adult to hide water balloons around the yard. Then have a water fight with your

friends—but you have to find the balloons first! Throw a balloon as soon as you find it, or try to collect a few before you let them fly.

Cool-a Hula

Don't spill while you spin! In this game, each player twirls a hula-hoop while holding a plastic cup full of water. The

person with the most water left in her cup after one minute wins. ★



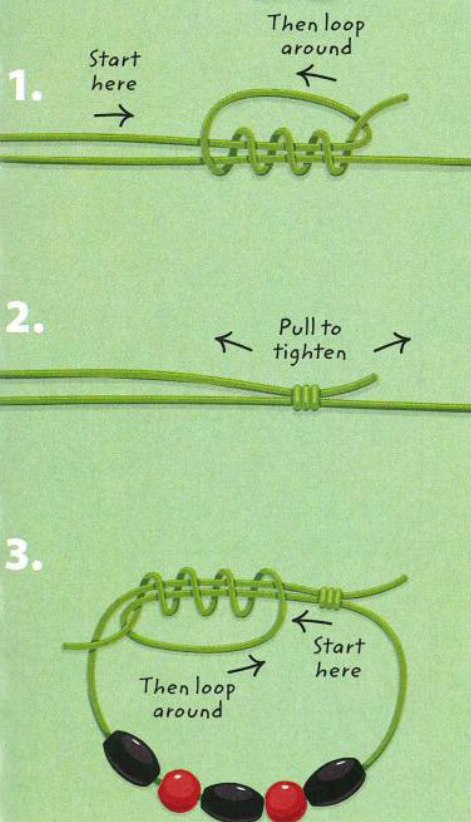
Finish a BRACELET



Making a bracelet is easy, but finishing it can be tricky. Here are three ways to fasten a bracelet to your wrist.

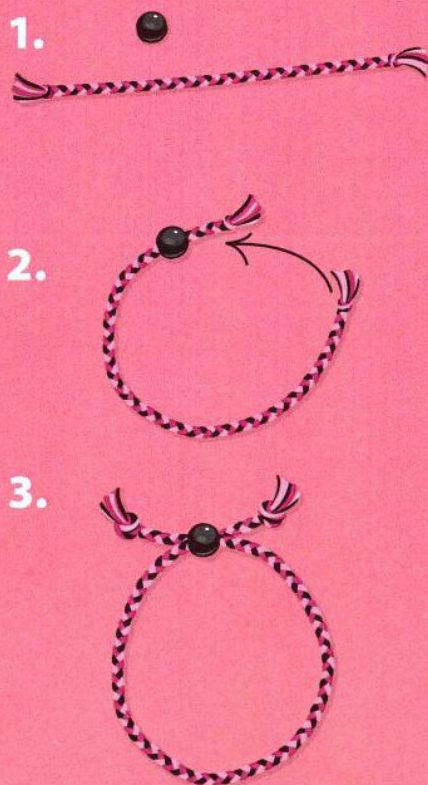
SLIDER Knots

Best for:
Bracelets made
from silk cord or
leather cord.



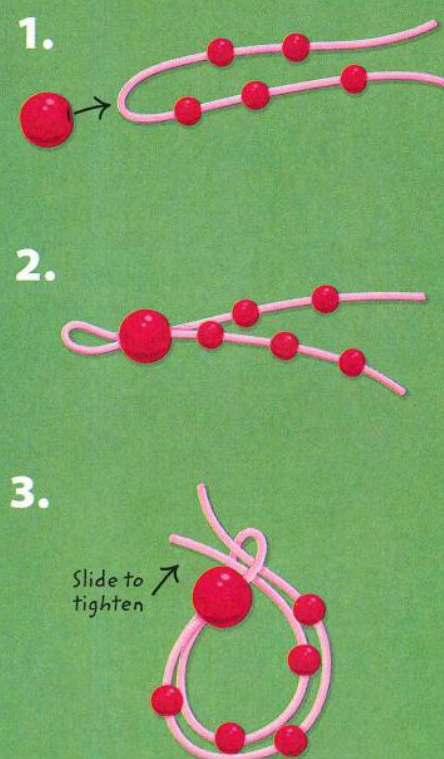
KNOTTED Bead

Best for:
Bracelets made from
braided embroidery
floss or leather cord.



BEAD Loop

Best for:
Bracelets made from
braided embroidery
floss or leather cord. ★



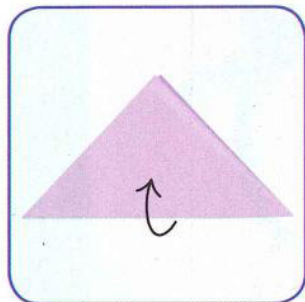
Bright Blooms

Make a colorful garden of beautiful paper flowers.

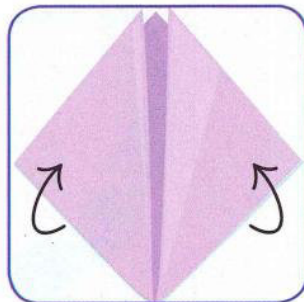
by Aubre Andrus

YOU WILL NEED

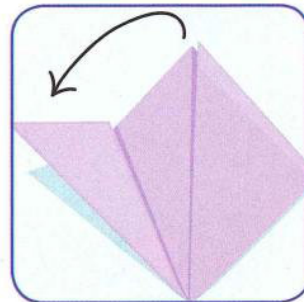
- * 5 paper squares
- * adhesive dots
- * liquid craft glue
- * paper clips



1. Rotate a square piece of paper into a diamond shape. Fold the bottom half up.

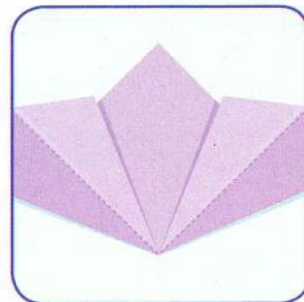


2. Fold the left and right points in toward the top of the center point to form a diamond shape.



3. Fold the top left point in half diagonally toward the left side. Fold the top right point in half diagonally toward the right side.

For each flower, you'll need 5 pieces of square paper—one for each petal. For larger flowers, use larger paper. Just make sure all 5 sheets are the same size. Also, your paper needs to be colored or decorated on both front and back.



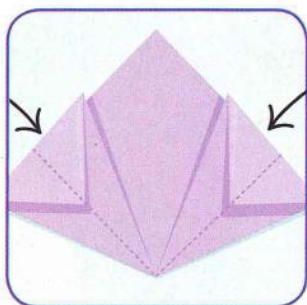
4. Unfold each side. Pop folded portions open; then press along the fold in each side to flatten into kite shapes, as pictured.

Instructions continue on page 34.

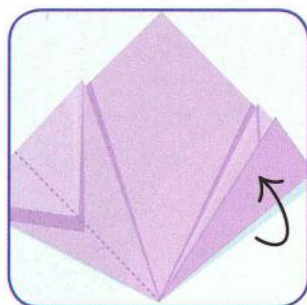


Add stems
to your flowers
with adhesive
dots and
craft sticks.

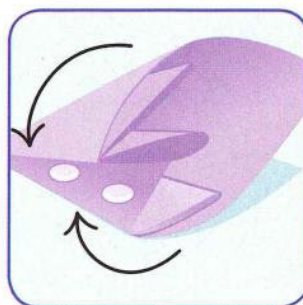
Make
flowers in
different sizes.
Use 12-by-12-inch
paper or larger to
create magnificent
blooms.



5. Fold the top point of each kite shape down toward you.



6. Fold the kite shapes in half toward the center point.



7. Attach the folded corners with adhesive dots to create a cone shape. Repeat all steps 4 more times to create a total of 5 petals.



8. Line the outside edges of the petals with glue. Secure petals together with paper clips to form the flower. Let dry. Remove paper clips.

More amazing paper crafts can be found in the book *Pretty in Paper*. ★



Happy CAMPERS

Take these quizzes and imagine that you're off to camp for a summer filled with fun.

What's Your Camp Nickname?

1. If you were a bird, you would be

- a. a yellow canary.
- b. an ostrich.
- c. a seagull.
- d. a parrot.



2. If you were at a restaurant in another country and the menu was in a different language, you'd

- a. think of it as a chance to try something new.
- b. close your eyes and point to something on the menu.
- c. make a joke and say, "Oops, I didn't learn enough French last year!"
- d. look at the pictures and choose the meal that looks best to you.



3. When you're bored, you

- a. go outside and do something fun.
- b. always think of something to fill up the time.
- c. call friends to brainstorm activities together.
- d. decorate your room or organize your closet.



4. Your favorite cold drink is

- a. lemonade.
- b. a sports drink.
- c. fruit punch.
- d. a smoothie.



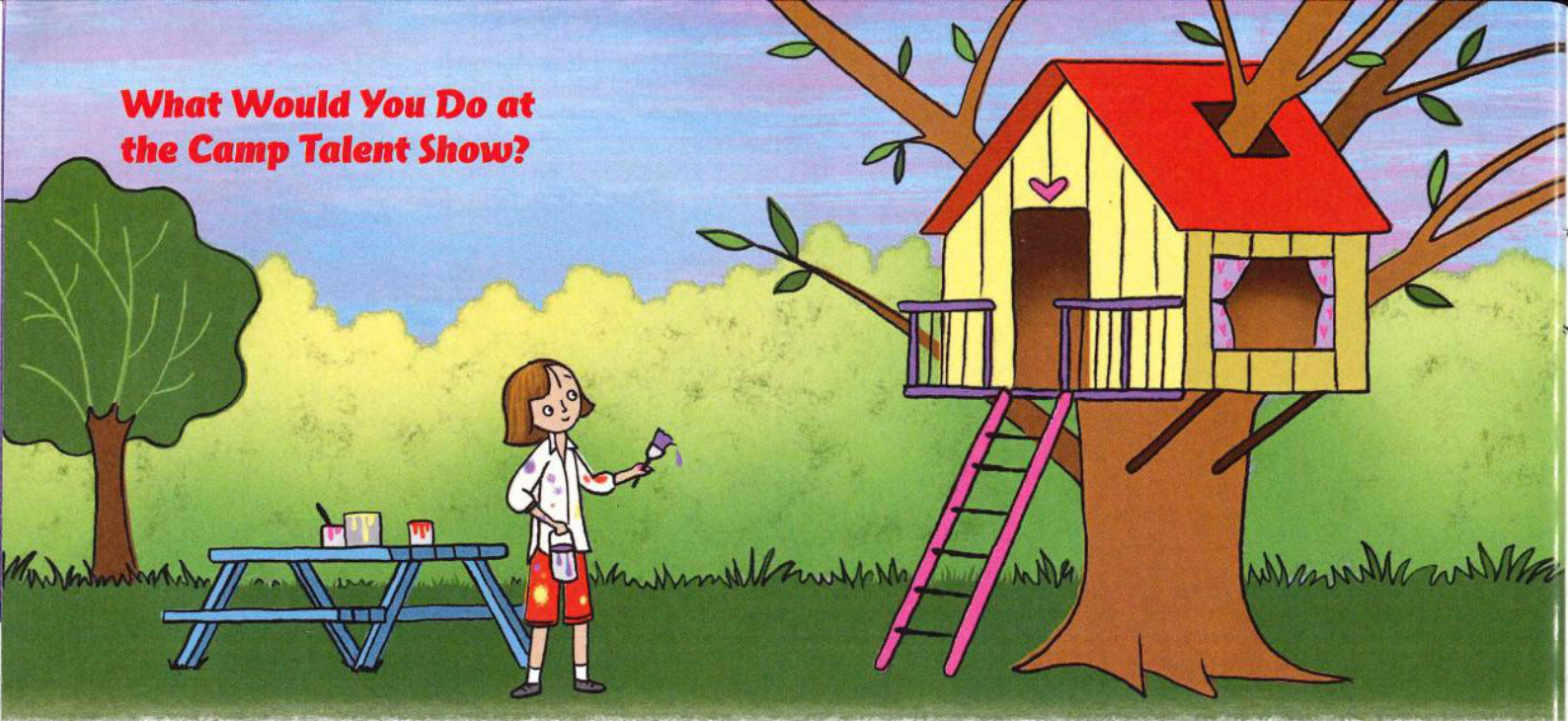
5. At the pool, you usually

- a. lie in a poolside chair to enjoy the warm sunshine.
- b. are the one who starts a water game.
- c. make silly hairstyles with your wet hair.
- d. are wrapped up in a colorful beach towel.



Go to page 39 for answers.

What Would You Do at the Camp Talent Show?



1. Pretend that you can build a fantasy tree house in your backyard. You'd

- a.** paint it the brightest color you can think of.
- b.** turn it into a clubhouse for yourself and your friends.
- c.** replace the ladder with a rock-climbing wall.
- d.** create a quiet space where you can read and write in peace.

2. If someone were to name a constellation after you, it would look like a girl

- a.** wearing a superhero cape.
- b.** grinning from ear to ear.
- c.** jumping into the air.
- d.** sitting under a tree.

3. In the summer, you're the girl who

- a.** makes a list of goals you'd like to tackle during summer vacation.
- b.** throws a big pool party with her friends.
- c.** never stops moving or playing.
- d.** makes up her own fun games.



5. If you could go on one of these vacations, you'd choose

- a.** a safari expedition.
- b.** a beach getaway.
- c.** a backpacking tour.
- d.** a rainforest trek.



4. You go to your room and shut the door if you want to

- a.** sing along to your favorite songs.
- b.** call a pal and talk about your day.
- c.** do some yoga.
- d.** write in your diary.



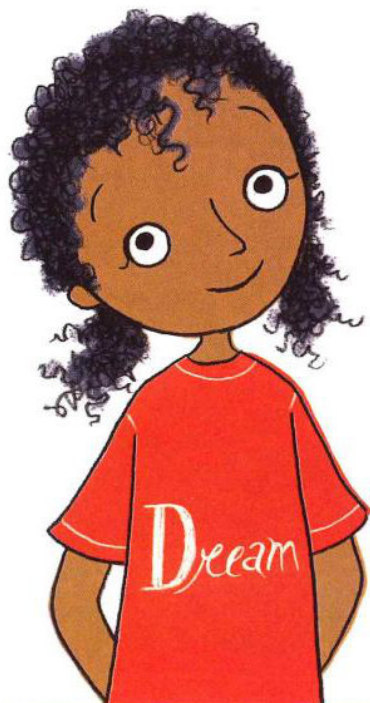
Go to page 39 for answers.

Which Activity Would Be Fun for You?



- 1.** If you wanted to make a bracelet for a friend, you'd
- a.** make your own clay beads for it.
 - b.** use colors that match your pal's favorite animal.
 - c.** use soothing colors, such as blue and purple.
 - d.** look up instructions for a tough weaving technique.

- 2.** Your personal motto might be
- a.** "Never stop dreaming."
 - b.** "Be kind to all living things."
 - c.** "Keep on keepin' on!"
 - d.** "Be the best person you can be."



- 3.** If you became famous, it might be for
- a.** painting an amazing masterpiece.
 - b.** discovering a never-before-seen animal in a jungle.
 - c.** writing a best-selling book.
 - d.** setting a world record.

- 4.** You just got an invitation to your friend's dance party. You
- a.** ask if you can help make glittery decorations.
 - b.** are more excited than a puppy with a new toy.
 - c.** don't love to dance, but you go anyway to hang out with your friends.
 - d.** practice your best dance moves before the party.



- 5.** If you were making a dessert for your family, you'd
- a.** put on sprinkles, chocolate shavings, and tasty extras that would make it look artistic.
 - b.** also make a dog-safe dessert for your furry friend.
 - c.** serve something cool and refreshing.
 - d.** try out a new recipe.

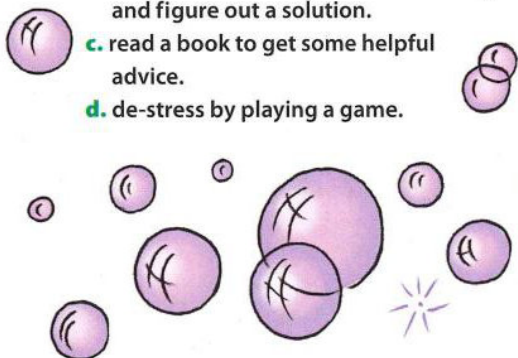


Go to page 39
for answers.

Which Campfire Food Are You?

1. If something isn't going your way, you might

- a.** take a bubble-bath break.
- b.** think it over for a couple of days and figure out a solution.
- c.** read a book to get some helpful advice.
- d.** de-stress by playing a game.



2. Imagine that you're in college. You'd

- a.** plan fun movie nights for girls in your dorm.
- b.** spend a semester in another country.
- c.** study and work hard to get A's.
- d.** take part in a lot of extracurricular activities.

3. Your best friend

- a.** makes you feel awesome about yourself, and you do the same for her.
- b.** stays away from drama and is super relaxed.
- c.** is smart and has a good head on her shoulders.
- d.** says funny things all the time.

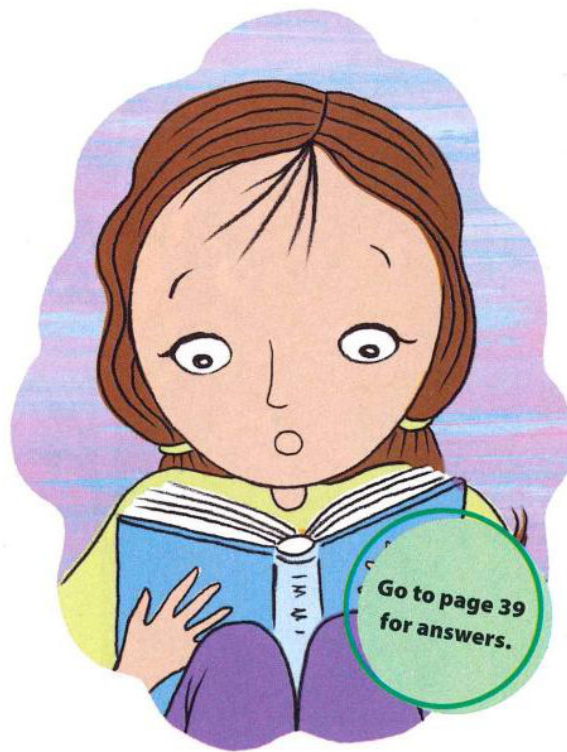
4. If you were to win a blue ribbon, it probably would say

- a.** "Best Homemade Pie."
- b.** "Most Well-Trained Dog."
- c.** "Best Short Story."
- d.** "Coolest Invention."



5. Your favorite book

- a.** gives you the warm fuzzies.
- b.** is pretty long, but you don't mind that it takes a while to read.
- c.** really makes you think.
- d.** is filled with exciting adventures.





Answers

What's Your Camp Nickname?

Mostly a's: **Sunny.**

Even if a fellow camper has a case of poison ivy, your smile and positive attitude could cheer her up.

Mostly b's: **Cheetah.**

Whoosh! That's the sound you make as you rush from one camp activity to the next. You're always on the hunt for excitement.

Mostly c's: **Giggles.**

Your hilarious jokes would have all the girls in your cabin cracking up.

Mostly d's: **Rainbow.**

You're colorful and bright, and so are your swimsuit, flip-flops, and bracelets.

What Would You Do at the Camp Talent Show?

Mostly a's: **Sing a song.**

You're a fearless girl who would love to sing on a stage in front of hundreds of campers.

Mostly b's: **Perform a skit.**

You have more fun when you do things with pals by your side, so you'd organize a group to put on a skit together.

Mostly c's: **Do a gymnastics routine.**

You're known for being active and athletic, and the campers would be amazed by your gravity-defying gymnastics moves.

Mostly d's: **Play the guitar.**

You are a one-of-a-kind girl whose own star shines, so you'd be great at performing songs you've written.

Which Activity Would Be Fun for You?

Mostly a's: **Arts & crafts.**

You love to show off your creative side, so you'd have a blast making beautiful masterpieces.

Mostly b's: **Horseback riding.**

The closer you are to animals, the happier you are. At camp, riding a horse through a beautiful forest would be a dream come true.

Mostly c's: **Canoeing.**

You go with the flow and paddle with whatever comes your way, so drifting along in a canoe is perfect for you.

Mostly d's: **Archery.**

Bull's-eye! You try to do your best at everything, and archery would challenge you to hit your mark.

Which Campfire Food Are You?

Mostly a's: **Chili.**

You're warmhearted and comfortable with yourself.

Mostly b's: **Hot dogs.**

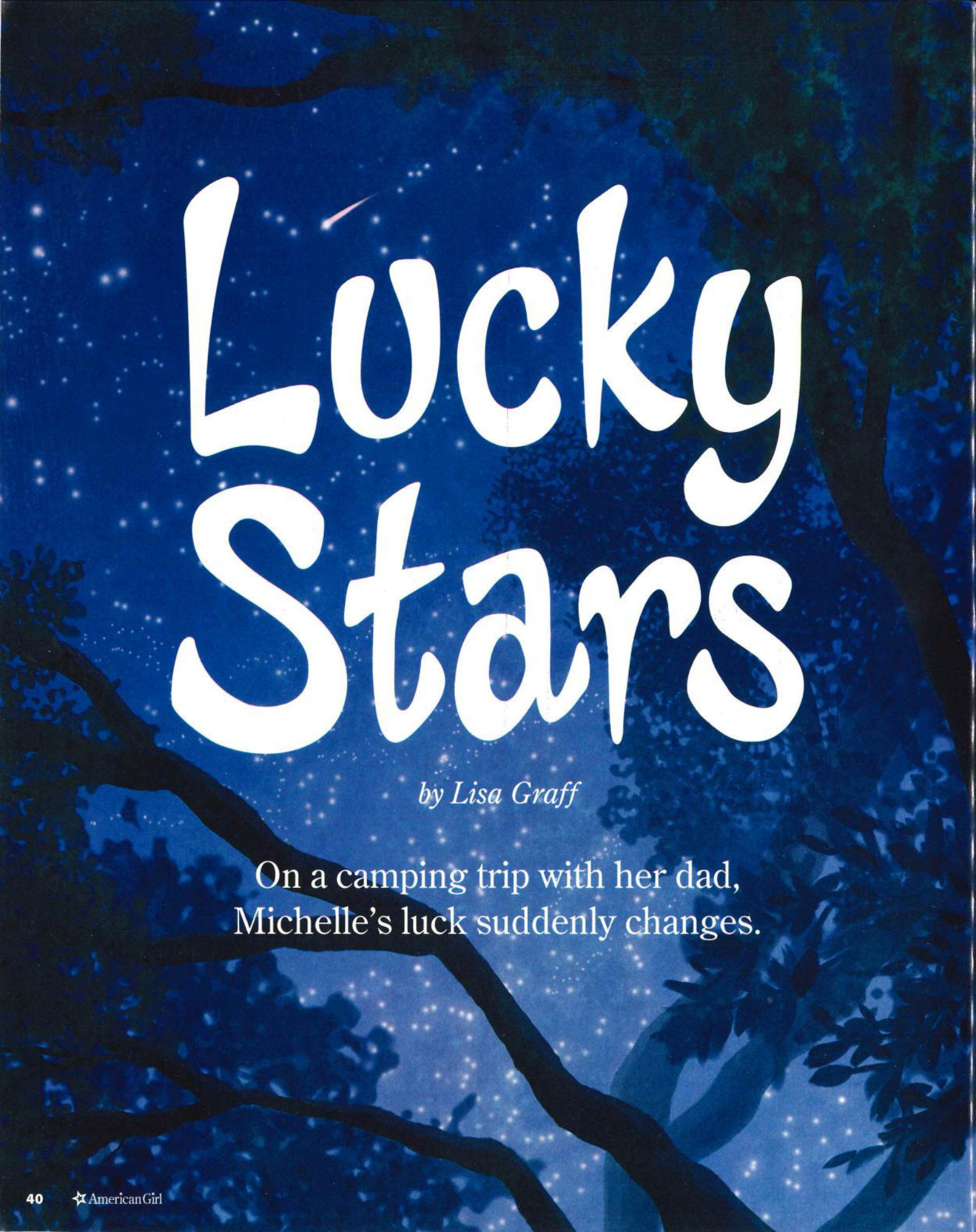
You like to take your time and don't feel the need to ketchup to anyone else.

Mostly c's: **Spaghetti.**

You're the one who always uses her noodle to solve sticky situations.

Mostly d's: **S'mores.**

Even if you've been having fun all day long, you're always up for some more! ★



Lucky Stars

by Lisa Graff

On a camping trip with her dad,
Michelle's luck suddenly changes.

Michelle had barely set foot inside Abby's house when her best friend pounced on her.

"You have to show me!" Abby cried. "I've been dying to see them!"

Michelle plopped her backpack down on the bench in the front hall. "I think they turned out pretty nicely," she admitted.

"Pretty nicely?" Abby squeaked, peeking her head inside Michelle's backpack.

"Michelle, these are *amazing*!"

Michelle grinned. She'd spent over a month working on the perfect favors for Abby's birthday party. She'd collected small empty plastic jars from the recycling bins at her church. She'd visited the local thrift store, scouring the toy section until she had the perfect collection of tiny, adorable toy figures. And she'd spent hours finishing the favors—twenty-four perfect home-made snow globes with glittery snow.

"It's going to be a great party tomorrow," Michelle said as Abby lined up all the snow globes on the bench. One of the first things Abby had told Michelle, after they started spending every waking minute together, was how she liked to have a blow-out themed birthday party every year. This year, the theme was "Winter in July," and besides the snow globe favors, there would be snowball coconut cupcakes, reindeer-shaped cookies, peppermint bark, and a whole vat of hot chocolate. The house was already decorated with snowflakes, snowmen, and even a real Christmas tree with twinkly lights. It was

going to be, hands down, the best birthday party of all time.

Only . . .

"I still can't believe you won't be there," Abby told Michelle.

Michelle felt the lump in her throat forming again, but she swallowed it down. "Me neither," she said.

"I thought you were supposed to see your dad *next weekend*."

"I was," Michelle replied. One weekend a month. That was the deal, ever since Michelle's parents had gotten their divorce two years ago. One weekend a month. That was how often she saw her dad, over awkward dinners at his new apartment, where neither of them knew quite what to say to each other, or if they should say anything at all. Half the time they ended up going to a movie that neither of them really wanted to see. "But my dad changed it, at the last minute."

He'd called last Wednesday, just three days before Abby's party, and told Michelle that it would mean the world to him if he could see her this weekend instead. *It would mean the world to me*, that's what he'd said. How could Michelle argue with that?

She couldn't. So, despite every angry voice in her head yelling at her not to, she told her father, Fine. She'd see him this weekend.

He wanted to go *camping*. Since when did her father like camping?

Abby was examining each of the snow globes



1. "Which one's your favorite?" she asked Michelle.

Michelle knew right away. She pointed to the jar with the woodland scene—a tiny speckled deer, a pine tree, and a spotted owl in a leafy green bush. It was calm and peaceful and lovely.

Abby scooped the snow globe off the bench and brought it close to her nose. "You're right," she said. "It's the best one." She held it out to Michelle. "You should have it."

"Thanks," Michelle said. And for maybe the six-hundredth time, she thanked her lucky stars that she and Abby had wound up in the same math class last spring. Abby always knew the right way to cheer her up.

"You going to drama camp with Chloe and

Genevieve again this year?" Michelle's father asked as they sped along the deserted highway on Saturday morning toward their mountain campsite.

"No," Michelle said. She pulled the snow globe from her backpack and swished it back and forth lazily. An endless glitter blizzard. Michelle wasn't really friends with Chloe and Genevieve anymore, and she wasn't so into drama either. It wasn't her dad's fault that he didn't know that—that he didn't know that Abby was her new best friend, or that she and Abby liked to spend weekends creating detailed drawings of their future houses (which would be right next door to each other, obviously), or inventing new kinds of cookies (the ones with the chopped-up candy bars inside were so scrumptious

that Abby's mom had named them "Scrumpties"). Michelle's father didn't see her very often anymore, so it would be difficult for him to know all those things. But sometimes Michelle couldn't help thinking that if her parents hadn't decided to get divorced, then her dad wouldn't have moved so far away, and then he *would* know those things.

Anyway, she didn't much feel like talking. She gave her snow globe another swish.

Michelle shook her head. She couldn't believe her luck.

It seemed like they had been driving forever, when all of a sudden the truck made a noise like a wrench clanking around in a bucket, and the car lurched a great lurch forward, and then it sputter, sputter . . . stopped.

"Oh, you've got to be kidding!" her father shouted, staring at the dashboard.

"What?" Michelle asked. "What is it?"

Her dad closed his eyes and took a deep breath, in and out. "We're out of gas," he said.

"What?" Michelle cried. She stared at the stretch of empty highway in front of them. They hadn't seen another car in the past twenty minutes. "What are we going to do?"

Her father checked his cell phone. No signal.

"We passed a gas station earlier," he said. "Two miles or so back. We'll walk there and get gas."

"Two *miles*?" Michelle shrieked. She couldn't believe this. "I could be eating snowball cupcakes right now."

"Snowball cupcakes?" her dad asked.



Michelle shook her head. She couldn't believe her luck.

It was at least three miles to the gas station. Luckily the owner gave them a ride back to their car, so at least they didn't have to walk both ways. Soon enough they were back on the road to their camping adventure.

Too bad.

Eventually, they found the campsite. A dirt clearing surrounded by trees. Michelle couldn't understand why her father had wanted to come all this way for *dirt*. Especially since he didn't seem to be having any more fun than she was.

"The box said 'Assembly in less than five minutes,'" Michelle's dad grumbled as he tossed into the dirt the two tent poles he'd been trying to attach.

"Maybe the tent's *supposed* to look like this," Michelle said, gazing at the heap of blue nylon and

bent metal rods piled before them. She wondered if there'd be any snowball cupcakes left if they stuffed the tent in the truck and headed for Abby's party right now.

"Well then," Michelle's dad said, "we'll just have to sleep in the truck bed!" He grinned at her like he wanted to convince her that was the best idea in the world. "It's a nice night, and the sleeping bags are plenty warm. What do you think?"

What Michelle *thought* was that this was the absolute worst day she'd had since the one where she'd learned her parents were getting a divorce in the first place. But could she say that? No. Of course not. When you only got to see your dad one weekend a month, you had to be *nice*. You had to be *polite*. It didn't matter what you thought about stupid camping trips on top of stupid mountains, because that was all the time you had together for a whole entire month, so you had to make the best of it.

"Sounds great," she said. And she stomped

across the carcass of the tent to pull the sleeping bags out of the truck.

“T

his is majorly broken,” Michelle grumbled, yanking at the zipper of her sleeping bag to pull it up around her. It wasn’t time for bed yet—they hadn’t even eaten dinner—but it had gotten cold quickly, and Michelle needed the extra warmth.

“Let me see,” Michelle’s dad said. He reached out and tugged at the zipper. “Yep,” he said, “it’s broken all right.”

“So what do we do?” If they left *now*, Michelle would miss all the cupcakes for sure, but at least she could join in the slumber party part of Abby’s birthday.

“I can fix it,” her father said. From the back

pocket of his khakis, he pulled out a small roll of duct tape. “I’ll tape the bag right up. No problem.”

Michelle squinted at him as he began to unroll a piece of duct tape and tear at it with his teeth. “You had that in your pocket?” she asked. “This whole time?”

“Sure,” her dad said. “I always carry around a mini roll. There are very few problems a little duct tape can’t solve. Well”—he ripped off another piece—“not gas tank problems or tent-building problems. But pretty much everything else. There. All set.” He patted Michelle’s arm, sticking out of the sleeping bag. “Snug as a bug?” he asked her.

She nodded slowly. She wondered why she hadn’t known that before, about her dad and the duct tape.

Her father returned the roll of tape to his pocket and began rifling through the bags in the back seat. “Ready for dinner?”



"Yes," Michelle replied, from her sleeping bag cocoon. That was the one part of this camping fiasco she could definitely get behind—the eating.

"Wonderful. I packed a great feast. Hot dogs and beans, that special hot chocolate you like so much. We'll make a fire and—"

Michelle leaned her head over the edge of the truck to see what was going on. "Dad?" she asked.

"It's not here," he said slowly. "Looks like I forgot to pack it."

"We don't have any *dinner*?" Michelle shrieked. She was *angry*.

But it turned out she wasn't the only one.

"I can't believe this!" her father shouted. He kicked at the ground and spooked up a giant cloud of dirt. "This whole trip is a disaster!"

"Dad?" Michelle said. She'd never seen her father like this. He was usually the one who calmed her down when she was upset. "Dad, are you all right?" She stood up to find out what was going on.

Too bad she completely forgot she was trapped inside a duct-taped sleeping bag.

"Oof!" Michelle cried, as she stood-then-fell inside her sleeping bag. Her dad dove across the edge of the truck bed just in time to stop her from plummeting over the side.

"You okay?" he asked her. He righted her on her feet, like she was a mummy inside a sarcophagus.

And at that moment, Michelle couldn't help it. She broke out laughing. "This is the *worst* camping trip," she said with a snort.

Her father did something surprising then.

He laughed too. "Really, really bad," he agreed.

"Maybe," Michelle said, doing her best to keep the smile on her dad's face, "for dinner we can eat duct tape."

It worked. "I guess we figured out another thing that duct tape can't fix," he said.

It turned out that there wasn't exactly *nothing* to eat. Michelle remembered that she'd smuggled a dessert into her backpack at almost exactly the same moment her father realized he had too.

"On three," Michelle said, when they each had their backpacks in their laps. They were both sitting in the truck bed in their sleeping bags. Michelle had duct taped her father inside his, too, so they'd be even. "One, two . . ."

On "*Three!*" Michelle and her father each pulled out their desserts.

"I knew it!" Michelle cried, when she spied her dad's yellow box of vanilla cookies. She popped open the cardboard top of her own identical yellow box. "The world's best cookie."

Her father opened his box. "I couldn't agree more."

They clinked their boxes together like flutes of champagne. "Bon appetit!" Michelle's dad announced. And they ate their dinner-dessert straight out of the box.

"You know you didn't really want to come this weekend," Michelle's father said as they stared up at the sky, nibbling on their cookies. The sky had turned dark, almost black, and the stars seemed brighter than Michelle had ever seen them. "But I'm really glad you did. You know, I came on this same trip with my dad when I was your age."

"Grandpa Holland?" Michelle said. Grandpa Holland had died when her dad was in high school, and her father hardly ever talked about him.

"He wanted to watch the meteor shower," her father said.

"Shooting stars?"

"Exactly. We were sitting right here, watching

the stars. And your grandfather told me that regular stars, those were the ones you made wishes on. But *shooting* stars, those were the ones that reminded you about wishes that had already come true. He said those were the ones to count your luck on."

Counting your luck. Michelle liked the idea of that.

"It sounds nice," she said.

In the distance, an owl hooted.

"Of course, your grandfather remembered to bring dinner," her father said. "And the tent went up, too."

"Camping is okay this way, too," Michelle said. She pulled another cookie out of her box and munched on it.

They were quiet for a minute or so, just eating cookies and watching the stars, when Michelle's dad asked, "What did you want to do this weekend? Instead of coming here?"

Michelle wasn't sure she wanted to tell her dad the truth. She didn't want to admit that there had been something else she'd wanted to do so badly that when he'd called her to tell her about the camping trip, she'd actually cried.

But he'd asked. And maybe it was OK to talk about it.

"It's Abby's birthday party tonight," she said.

"Is Abby one of your good friends?" her dad asked.

"She's my *best* friend."

"What happened with Chloe and Genevieve?" he asked. He sounded like he really wanted to know.

So Michelle told him everything—about how after he and her mom had gotten divorced, she'd

been really upset, and how she'd needed someone to talk to about it. And how she'd tried to talk to Chloe and Genevieve, but they never seemed to have the time to listen. And how Abby had transferred to Michelle's math class last March, and how she was a *wonderful* listener. And a great friend too.

Maybe it was the darkness, or the stars, or the cookies for dinner, but somehow, snuggled into her sleeping bag in the back of the truck, Michelle found it easier to talk to her father than it had ever been before.

When she got to the part about Abby's birthday party, her father insisted she show him her home-made snow globe. "Michelle, this is *incredible*," he said, examining the snow globe with his flashlight. He turned it over so that the glitter swirled around the woodland scene. "I never knew you could do this."

"Well," Michelle replied, "I never knew about you and the duct tape."

Through the beam of the flashlight, Michelle saw her father nod. "I guess we still have a lot to talk about."

There was a sudden glow from Michelle's father's wrist as his watch lit up and let off a tiny beep.

"What was that?" Michelle asked.

Her dad flicked off the flashlight. "A surprise," he said softly. "Look up."

For several minutes, nothing happened. But then, all at once, there it was. A streak of white light—a star, cutting a bright, beautiful path across the sky.

"A shooting star," Michelle whispered.

Michelle wasn't
sure she wanted
to tell her dad
the truth.



"The kind of star to count your luck on," her father reminded her.

Michelle leaned back against her pillow and squinted at the sky, thinking about all the things she felt lucky for. Ten seconds later, out of the darkness, was another shooting star. Another streak of luck.

Then another.

And another.

Soon there were shooting stars *everywhere*, crowding the sky, lighting up the world. Michelle felt like she was inside a snow globe of her own, surrounded by a sky full of glitter.

A sky full of luck.

It was too bad that she'd had to miss Abby's party, Michelle thought. She knew it would've been a wonderful time.

But tonight, here in the dark with her dad, on the world's best camping fiasco . . . she knew that this was a night she'd remember for the rest

of her life.

Michelle snuggled closer to her father, and he wrapped his arm around her. They watched the sky for a long time, counting their luck together. ★



Meet the Author



About
age 11



Now

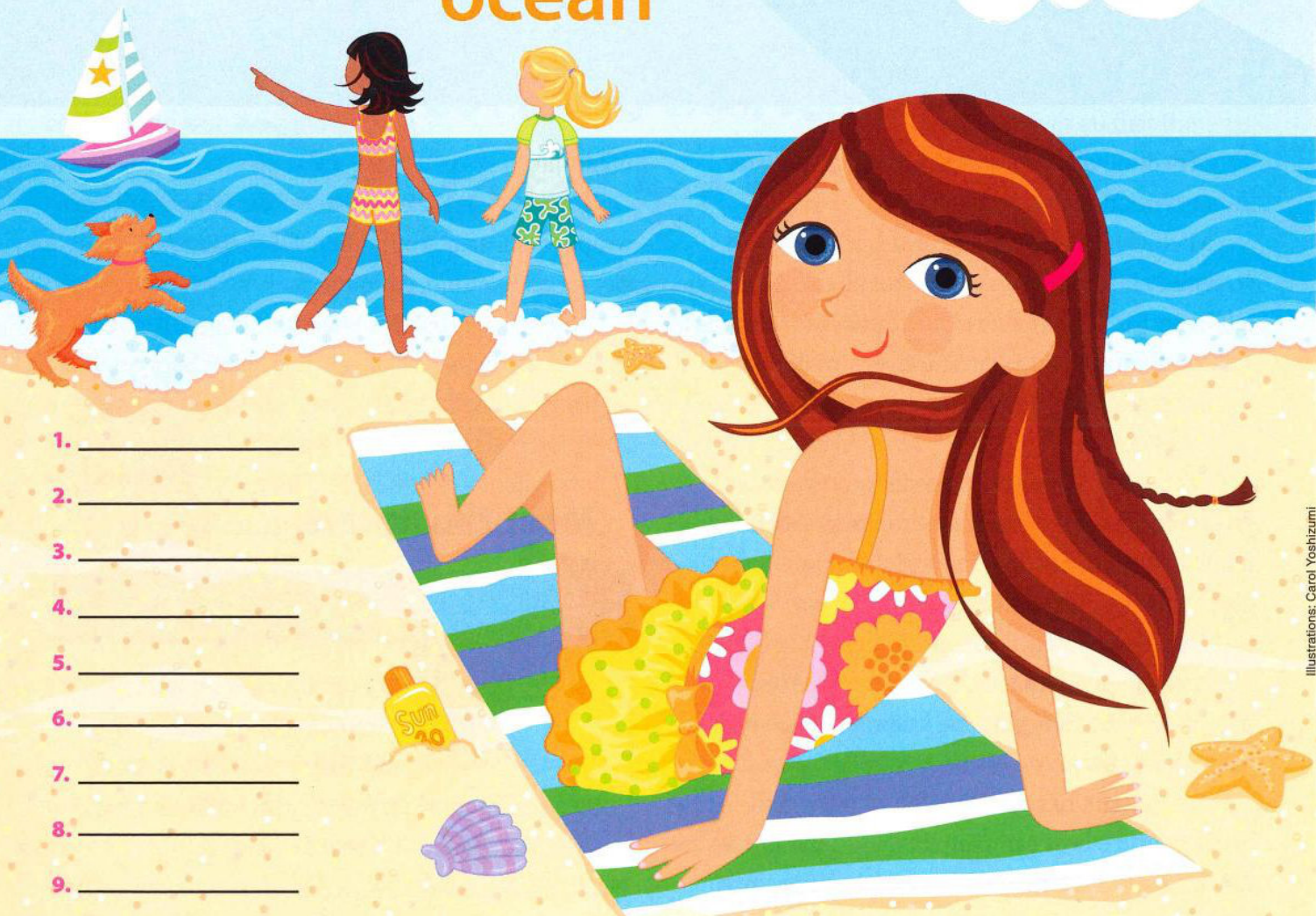
Lisa Graff

My family went on a lot of camping trips when I was a kid. This story was inspired by a camping trip my father took me on long ago to see Halley's Comet.

Hello, Sunshine!

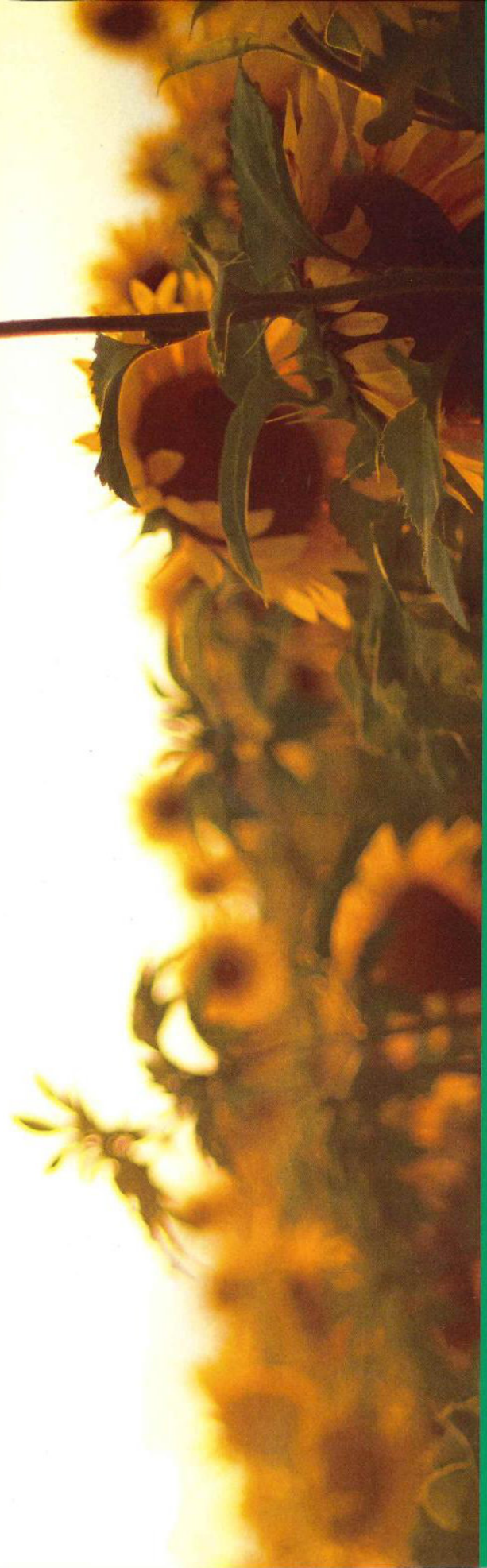
Put two words together to make one word, and write the word in one of the blanks provided. No repeats!
Look out for trick words that don't have a match.

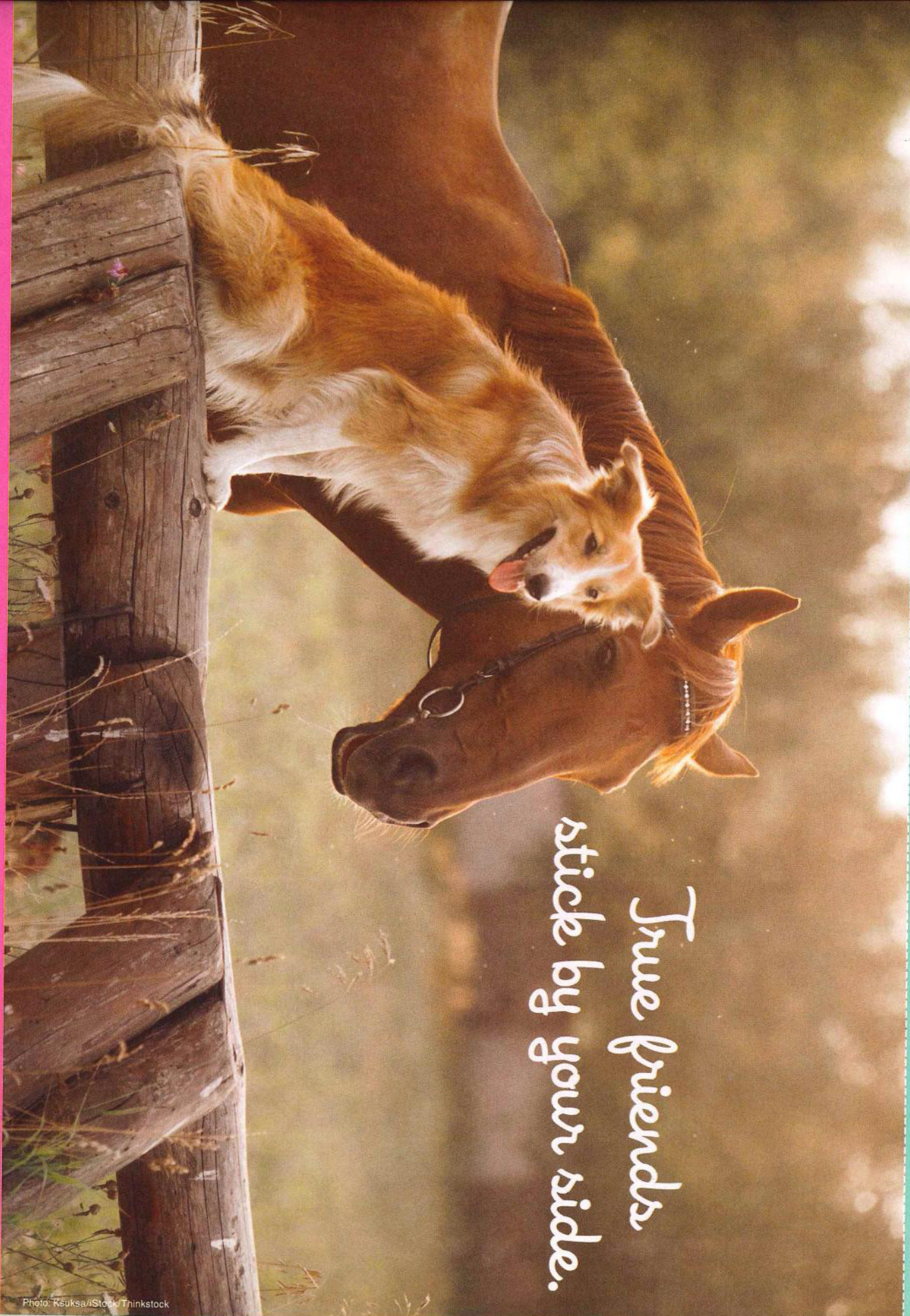
road boat back out
melon ball storm shell lawn
sky cook sea yard swim
water suit thunder sun base
glasses ocean sail cone



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Stand Tall



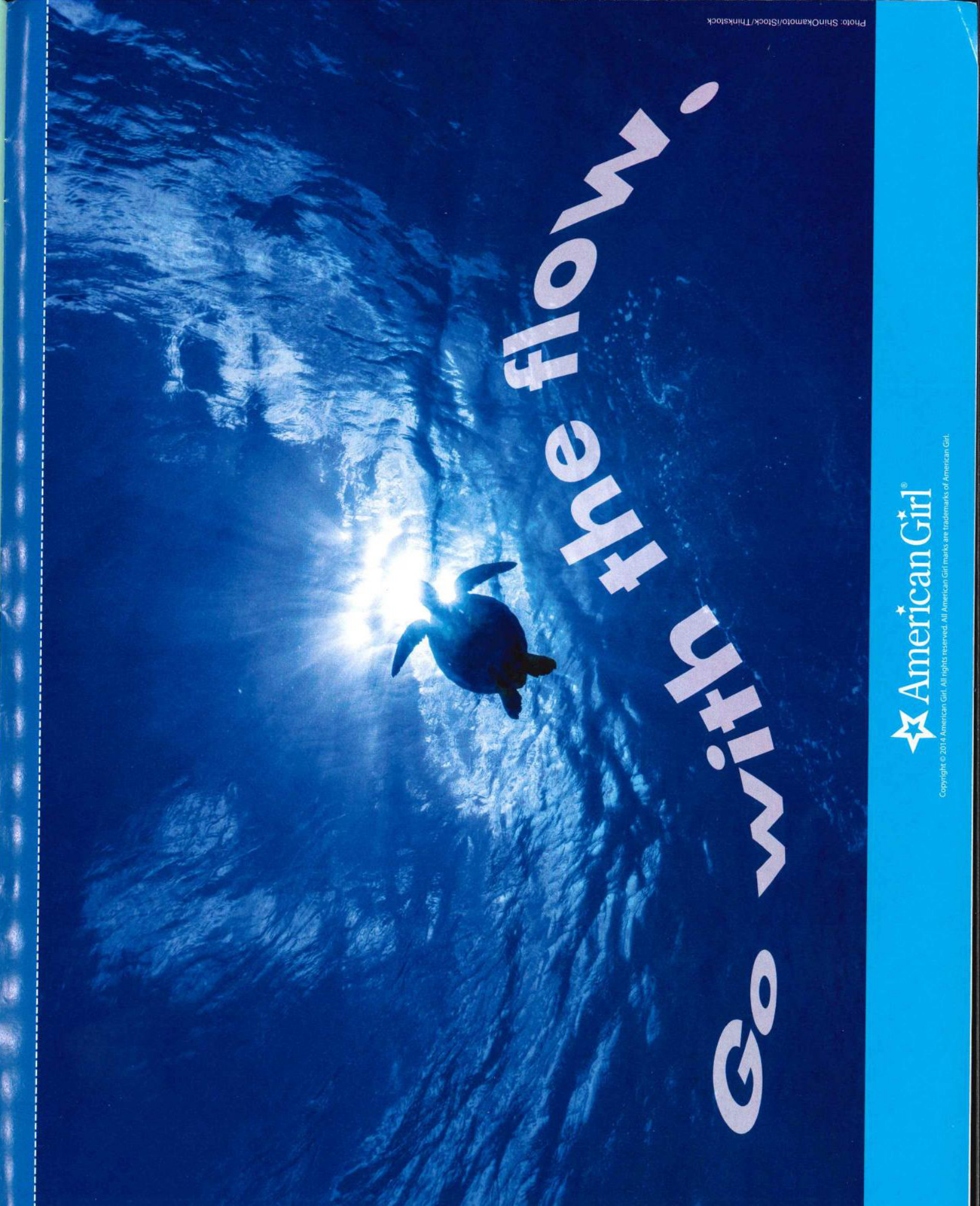
A photograph of a brown horse and a long-haired dog, possibly a Shetland Sheepdog, leaning over a rustic wooden fence. The dog is on the left, its head resting on the horse's neck. The horse is on the right, looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus field of tall grass and trees under a warm, golden light.

*True friends
stick by your side.*

Photo: Ksuka/Stock Thinkstock

 American Girl®

Copyright © 2014 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.



Go with the flow!

 American Girl®

Copyright © 2014 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

Photo: ShinOkamoto/Stock/Thinkstock



Enjoy the
little things.

 American Girl®

Copyright © 2014 American Girl. All rights reserved. All American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

Photo: vvivita/iStock/Thinkstock

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

When my family takes a trip on an airplane, I always end up packing EVERYTHING. My bag gets so heavy! What should I do?

heavy help

Ask a parent for an idea of what you'll do each day. Then lay out your outfits—including underwear and shoes. Looking at all the stuff at once helps you to be sure that everything goes together and that you have only what you need, which allows you to pack fewer items. Then roll up each day's outfit and stack the rolls into your suitcase. Have fun!



Dear American Girl,

My family fights a lot. If I tell them to stop yelling, they ignore me or yell at me for making it worse. I don't want this.

Fighting Family

You might have better luck telling your family how you feel about the fighting rather than just telling them to quit it. Pick a quiet moment to tell your parents that fighting in the house stresses you out, makes you cry, leaves you feeling unsafe, or whatever is true. Together, make a plan to help you cope when things heat up, such as taking a break in your room or going for a walk.



Dear American Girl,

I'm really shy about trying new things, so I miss a lot of stuff. I was wondering if you had any advice for me.

Shy

When you feel shy, you often don't feel like stepping outside your comfort zone. But that's where all the fun new stuff is! So try baby steps. Pick something that sounds good and commit to trying it once. If it's awful, you don't have to go back. But if it's fun (and it probably will be), you can keep trying it. Soon, you won't feel so shy about it, and you'll be so glad you took a chance.



Dear American Girl,

I have trouble cleaning my room. The problem is that I just don't like doing it. I need a way to make it fun—any ideas?

Not A Clean Freak

Create a cleaning game that uses imagination, such as pretending that your room is a shop. Customers have messed it up, and you've got to fix it before the big sale. Play music, and then get to work, tossing trash and organizing one spot at a time. This might feel like how you played when you were younger, but who doesn't love playing store? A game might help it seem less like work.



MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I LOVE the ocean and want to be a marine biologist. But no one else wants to do that—they all want to be famous singers or TV stars. They say I'm wasting my time with all that nature stuff.

Should I give up my dream?

It's odd—girls these days are told they can be anything they want to be, right? So why do people still tell girls that they're not dreaming the right way? "Why do you want to do THAT?" a friend might ask. Or "That's just not practical," an adult might say. The truth is, most marine biologists started out as kids just like you who loved the ocean. And now they're living their dreams. Your dreams are counting on you, so don't give up on them—you're the only one keeping them alive. You owe it to your dreams to follow them to wherever they're going to take you. Next time someone questions your dreams, just say, "Well, that's what I love," or even, "You just wait and see." Then go out and prove those doubters wrong.

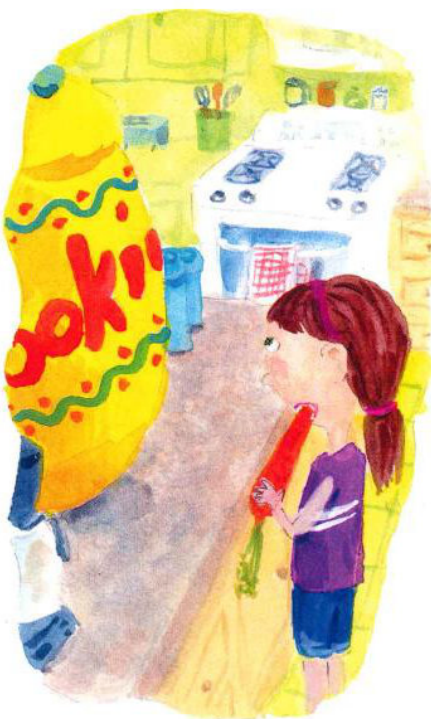


Dear American Girl,

I want to be healthy, but I always eat junk food instead. Is there anything I can do to stop liking bad food so much?

junk food

Junk food is pretty yummy, so you probably can't stop liking it. The trick is to learn to make good choices and to treat junk food as the treat that it is. Try limiting yourself to one junk food serving a day—



meaning, if you have fries at lunch, skip ice cream at dinner. Or choose carrots at lunch so you can have ice cream at dinner. Being healthy is all about getting enough nutritious food and exercise to balance out the occasional junky treats. Pick healthy food more often than you pick junk, and you'll be on the right track.



Dear American Girl,

I take medicine for my behavior. I know I'm not the only person on this medicine, but for me, it feels like it's only making me more tense. What is going on? What should I do?!

Please help

When you take medicine, always let a parent and your doctor know how it's going, whether good or bad. Keeping a journal might help you to notice patterns, such as how taking your medicine at a different time might make you feel differently. Never be afraid to mention things like this—after all, the point of medicine is to help you feel better. If it's not doing that, it needs fixing.



even
MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

This is weird, but my nose is always itchy. I need to scratch it, but then I worry that people will think I'm picking my nose!

What do I do?

The solution is simple. Get yourself a pocket-size pack of tissues. When you need to scratch your nose, just use a tissue instead of your hands. You also might talk to your doctor about possible allergies—it's normal for noses to itch sometimes but not to be itchy all the time.



Dear American Girl,

My mom buys me clothes that make me look like a little girl. I have told her many times that she has no sense of style and that I want to pick out my own fashion. What else can I do?

ten years old!

You and your mom have different styles, which is OK. Telling her that she has no style probably isn't a great strategy. Instead, ask if you two can go shopping together. Help her understand what you like by talking thoughtfully about the



clothes you look at. "I hate that" won't do it—try "I really don't like the ruffles" or "I'd rather not wear red—green is more my taste." She might still buy clothes you don't love, but at least you'll be working together, which should help.



Dear American Girl,

I am really down about myself. (One girl quit being friends with me because I was so negative.) I try not to think bad things about myself, but nothing works.

negative

Pay attention to the actual words you use about yourself. If you're thinking them, try saying them out loud. If you already say them out loud, try writing them down. Would you talk to a friend like that? Didn't

think so. From now on, try thinking of yourself as your own best friend. (You're always there for yourself, right? You've got your back.) Only let yourself say and think words about yourself that a good friend would say, and see where that leads you. Most people think you're great, and it would be great if you thought so, too. Talk to a parent, too—you might need help from a doctor or therapist to get unstuck.



Advice from You

"Every night, I try to remember a bad thing that happened that day. Then I try to imagine something good coming from the bad thing. It really helps me feel better in the morning."

Cecilia P.
Age 12, Ohio

Need advice? Got advice? Write:
Help!

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

Our "Splash Bash" models stayed cool at the photo shoot.



"Oh no! We're tangled!"



"I'm ready for my close-up."

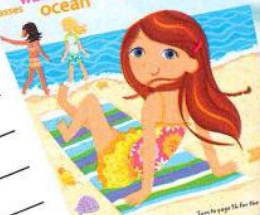


"Now we have matching hearts and stars."

AG's Puzzle
Page Answers

Put two words together to make one word, and write the word in one of the blanks provided. No repeats! Look out for trick words that don't have a match.

back shell lawn
ball water sun base
melon boat cook sea sail base
glass ocean



1. backyard
2. baseball
3. cookout
4. sailboat
5. seashell
6. sunglasses
7. swimsuit
8. thunderstorm
9. watermelon

Behind the Scenes

We poured tons of summer fun into this splashy issue.

Pets love to read our magazine, too!



Sara
Maggie D., age 11,
Pennsylvania



Peanut
Anna F., age 11, Ohio



We loved styling ice cream treats for Frosty Favorites.



Light bounces off this white board.

Nuts for toppings

The ice cream cones stay put with the help of a cereal box wrapped in blue paper.

To see more pet photos from girls like you, go to americangirl.com/playmagazine

ADVERTISEMENT

Isabelle

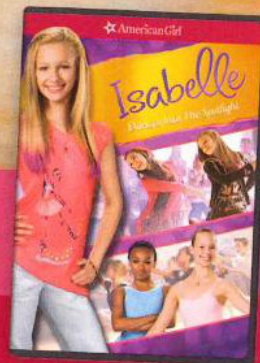
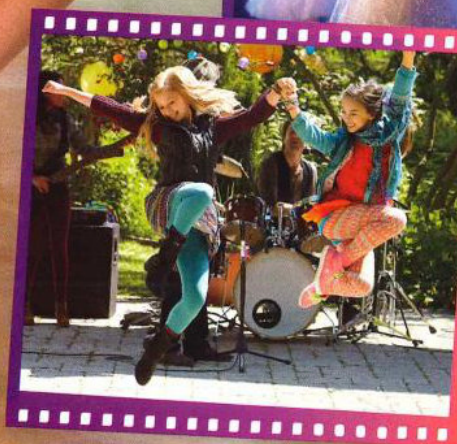
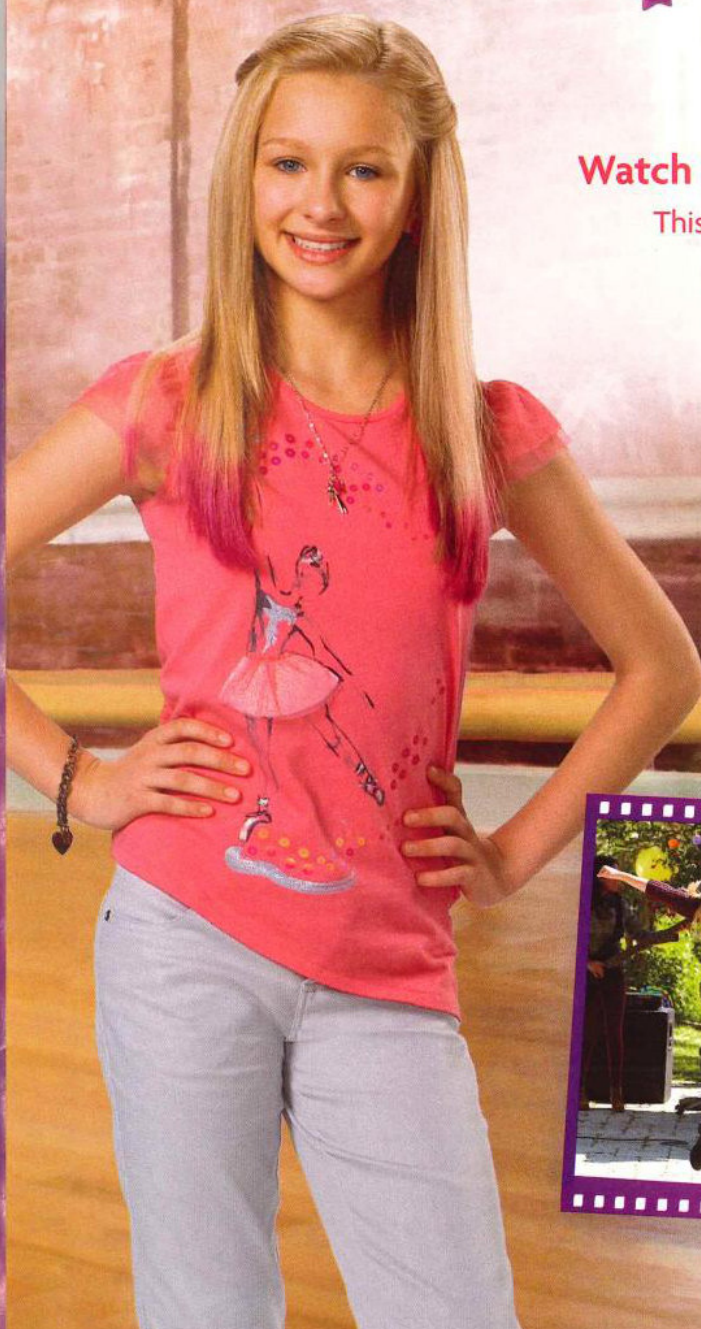
DANCES INTO
THE SPOTLIGHT

Watch Isabelle's all-new movie on TV and DVD!

This movie features the story of our **Girl of the Year***

Isabelle Palmer, an inspired dancer who
discovers her own way to *shine*.

WATCH IT THIS AUGUST ON



Don't miss it! Available July 2014 on Blu-ray™, DVD, and Digital HD.

★ American Girl®

Turn
the page
to discover
Isabelle's mini
movie poster



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Artwork & Packaging © 2014 Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved. © 2014 American Girl. All Rights Reserved.

We're celebrating the new
Isabelle movie with in-store and
online events **all summer long!**

Our exciting store events include:

- The *Isabelle Dances into the Spotlight* movie-viewing event, including the premiere of *Isabelle's Dance Jam* video!
- Isabelle's Dance Desserts
- Isabelle's Paper Fashion Doll Craft, and more!



Girls can also twirl into Isabelle's inspiring world online at americangirl.com/girloftheyear!

- **Try New Moves with Isabelle** at her online performing-arts school
- See the movie trailer and hear from its stars!

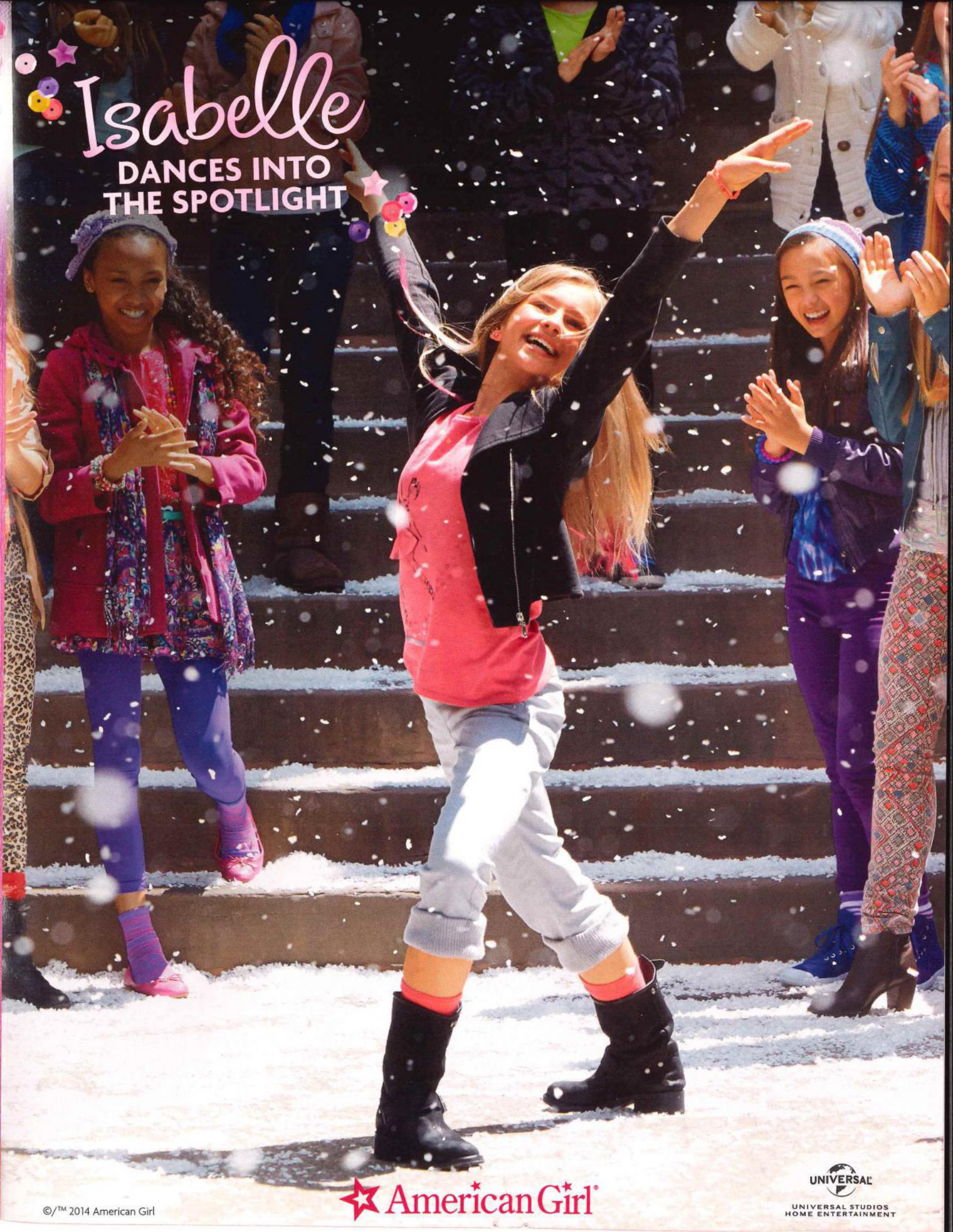


For more details on our summer-only events and experiences, visit americangirl.com/stores.



Isabelle

DANCES INTO
THE SPOTLIGHT



American Girl

Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Coming up in the September/October issue of *American Girl* magazine

Bold School

Our tips will help you feel more confident when you go back to school.

Trick or Neat

Girls share their never-before-seen costume designs.

Halloween Flair

Spooky-cute hair accessories that you can make yourself

All Write!

We'll reveal the winners of our story contest.



For more
fun and games, go to
americangirl.com/playmagazine

A close-up photograph of a light brown puppy running towards the camera on a lush green lawn. The puppy has floppy ears and a happy expression. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "Smile!" in a large, playful, rounded font. The letters are colored in a gradient of green and orange, with a white outline. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Smile!

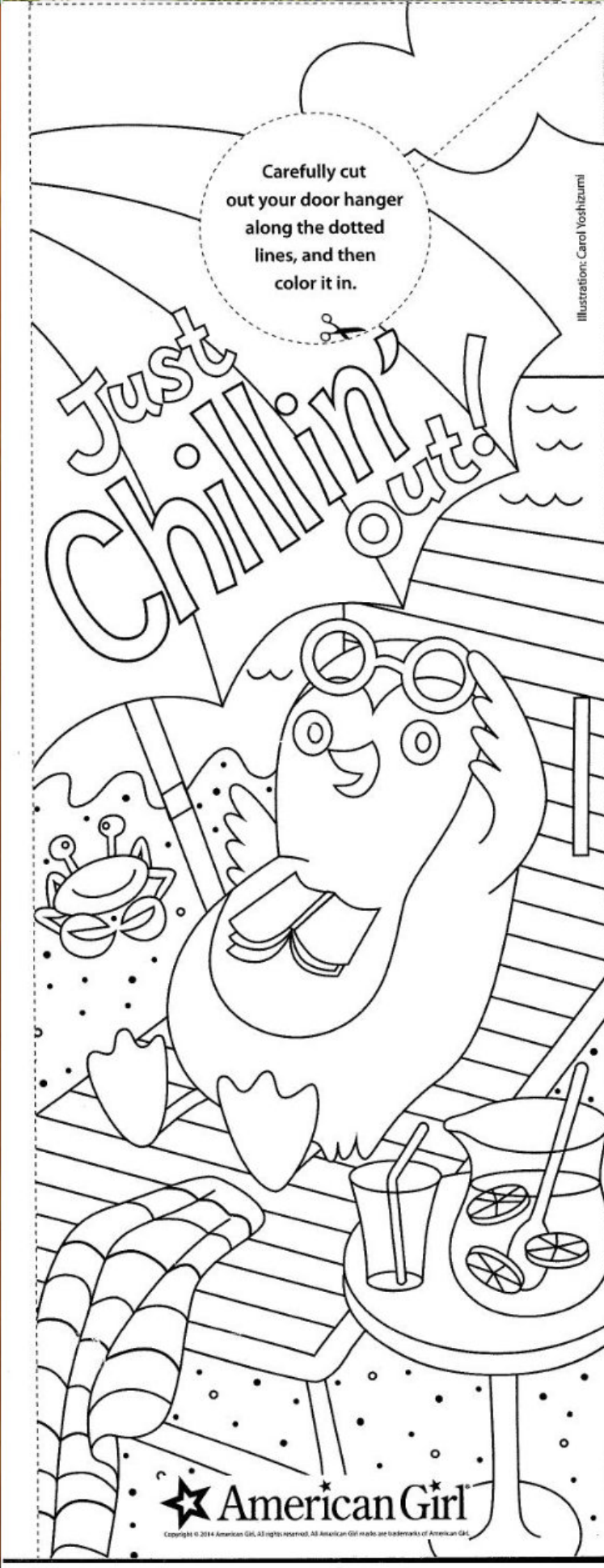
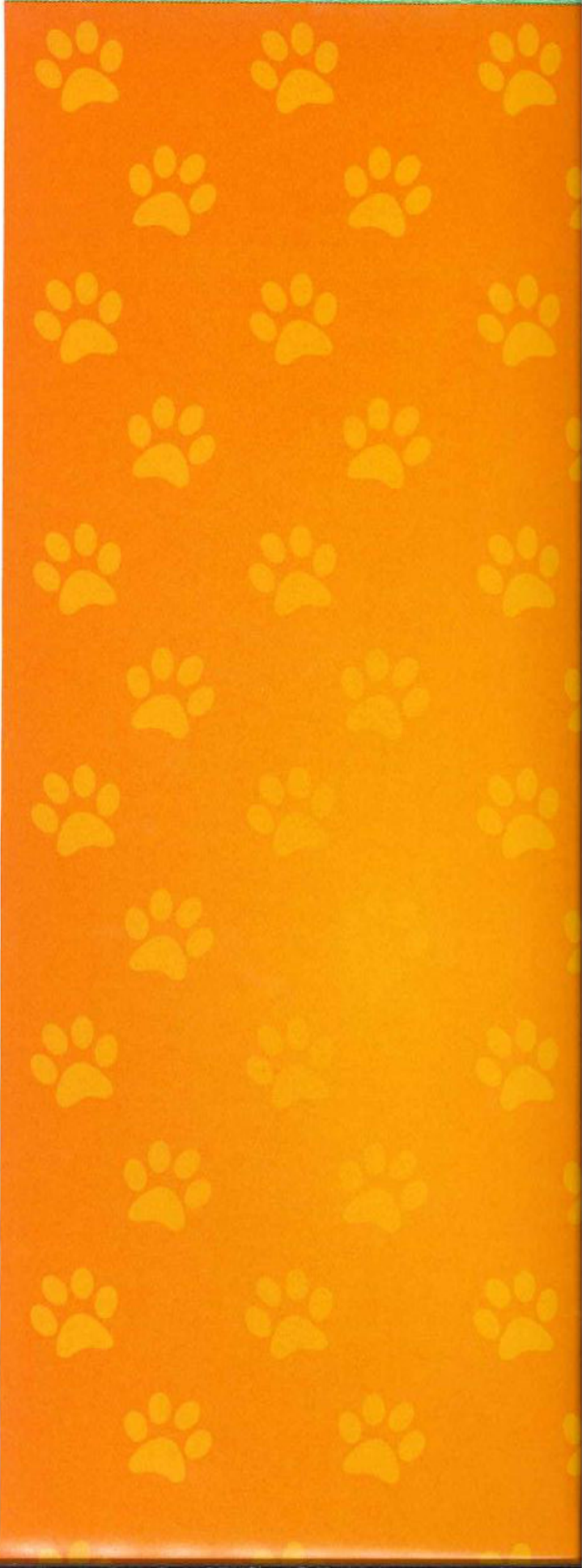
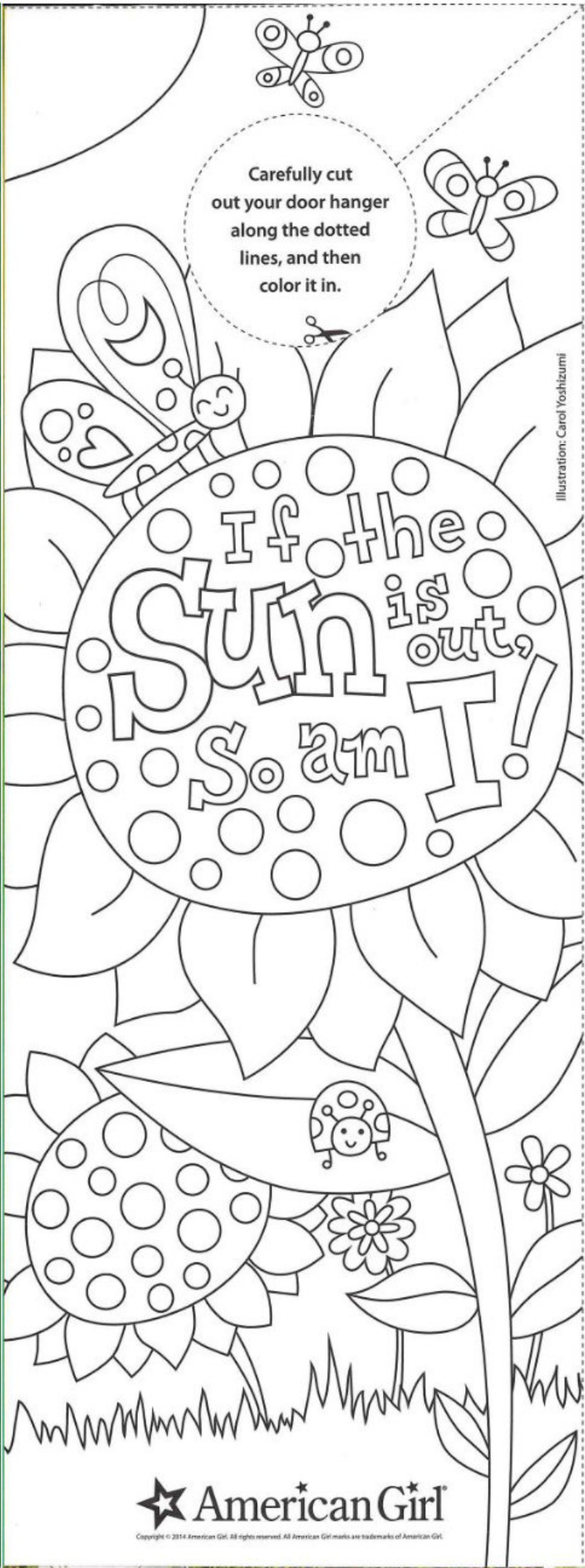
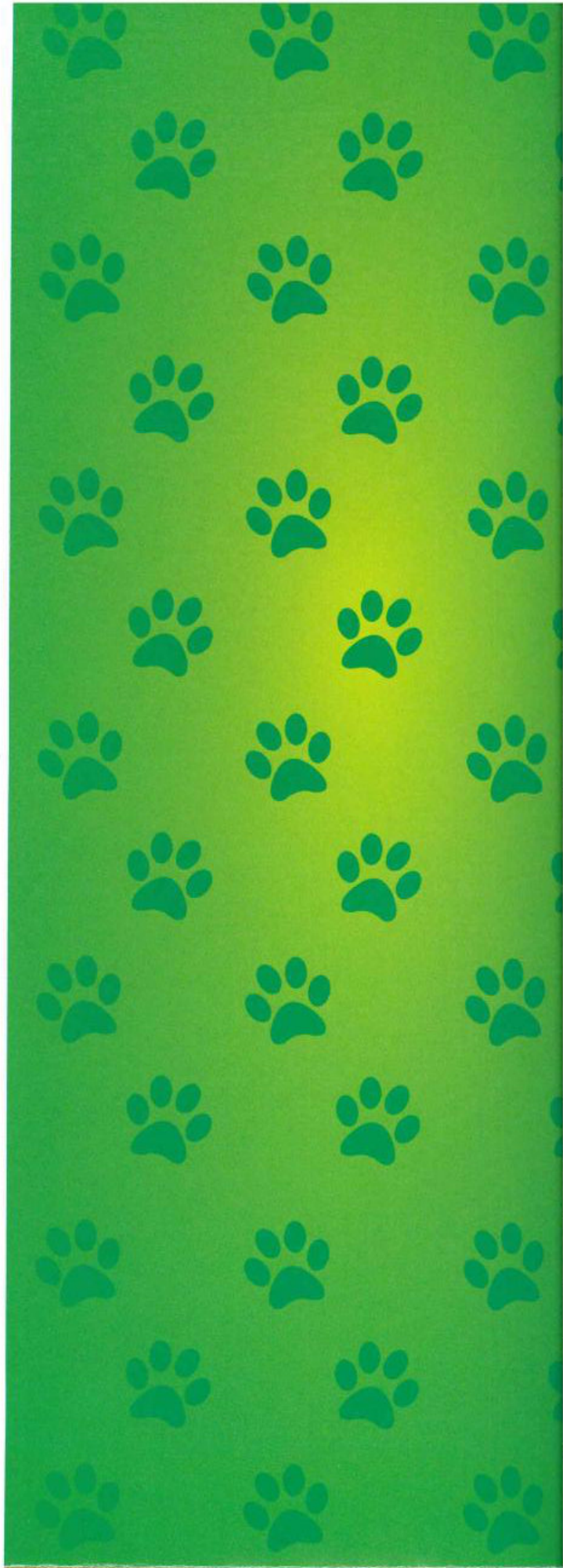


Carefully cut your poster along the dotted line, and then color it in.

 American Girl

Copyright © 2014 American Girl. All rights reserved. AG American Girl marks are trademarks of American Girl.

Illustration © Carol Tisdale



HURRY! Get your copy before it hits newsstands!

J44SCHDB2



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 190 BOONE IA USA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Magazine Subscription Dept
PO BOX 5532
HARLAN IA 51593-3032



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 190 BOONE IA USA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Magazine Subscription Dept
PO BOX 5532
HARLAN IA 51593-3032



Subscribe today

and save 40% with our combo offer!

2014
Special
Holiday
Issue

☐ 1 year plus 2014 Special Holiday Issue (7 issues in all) for \$27. I save \$18.65 off the cover price.

☐ Bill me later ☐ Payment enclosed

Send bill to:
(please print)

Adult's name (required)

Address

City

State

Zip

Send magazine to:
(please print)

Girl's name

Girl's birth date (optional)

Address

City

State

Zip

☒ **Yes!** I want a one-year (6 issues) subscription to *American Girl* magazine, plus a copy of the 2014 Special Holiday Issue as soon as it's printed in November. That's 7 issues in all for just \$27!

Guarantee: You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund for all unexpired issues. Special Holiday Issue will ship with regular issue starting with N-D 14. All non-US addresses \$37 U.S. per year, prepaid only for combo offer. Savings based on newsstand price of \$45.65 for 6 issues plus Special Holiday Issue. To learn more about American Girl magazine, or remove your name from our mailing list, call 800-234-1278. e/™ 2014 American Girl. G20QWA

For the fastest service, visit americangirlmagazine.com or call 800-234-1278 to reserve your copy today!

Subscribe today

and save 40% with our combo offer!

2014
Special
Holiday
Issue

☐ 1 year plus 2014 Special Holiday Issue (7 issues in all) for \$27. I save \$18.65 off the cover price.

☐ Bill me later ☐ Payment enclosed

Send bill to:
(please print)

Adult's name (required)

Address

City

State

Zip

Send magazine to:
(please print)

Girl's name

Girl's birth date (optional)

Address

City

State

Zip

☒ **Yes!** I want a one-year (6 issues) subscription to *American Girl* magazine, plus a copy of the 2014 Special Holiday Issue as soon as it's printed in November. That's 7 issues in all for just \$27!

Guarantee: You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund for all unexpired issues. Special Holiday Issue will ship with regular issue starting with N-D 14. All non-US addresses \$37 U.S. per year, prepaid only for combo offer. Savings based on newsstand price of \$45.65 for 6 issues plus Special Holiday Issue. To learn more about American Girl magazine, or remove your name from our mailing list, call 800-234-1278. e/™ 2014 American Girl. G20QWA

Take advantage of our Special Holiday Issue combo offer!

Make her holiday season
brighter than ever!



Subscribe to *American Girl* magazine now with our combo offer, and she'll also receive our extra Special Holiday Issue.

HURRY—quantities are limited!



Available at newsstands starting 11/18/14

SUBSCRIPTION COMBO OFFER

Subscribe today

and save 40% with our combo offer

☒ **Yes!** I want a one-year (6 issues) subscription to *American Girl* magazine, plus a copy of the 2014 Special Holiday Issue as soon as it's printed in November. That's 7 issues in all for just \$27.00!

Guarantee: You may cancel at any time and receive a full refund for all unexpired issues. Special Holiday Issue will ship with regular issue starting with N-D 14. All non-US addresses \$37 U.S. per year, prepaid only for combo offer. Savings based on newsstand price of \$45.65 for 6 issues plus Special Holiday Issue. To learn more about American Girl magazine, or remove your name from our mailing list, call 800-234-1278. e/™ 2014 American Girl. G20QWA

☐ 1 year plus Special Holiday Issue (7 issues in all) for \$27. I save \$18.65 off the cover price.

☐ Bill me later ☐ Payment enclosed

Send bill to:
(please print)

Adult's name (required)

Address

City

State

Zip

Send magazine to:
(please print)

Girl's name

Girl's birth date (optional)

Address

City

State

Zip

Crafts, recipes, advice, quizzes, and more!

This special issue also comes with these fantastic **free gifts**:

- Design By Me: Big & Tiny mini book
- Holiday stickers
- Furry Thoughts 2015 calendar

To sample fun features from past issues, visit americangirlmagazine.com.



Available at newsstands starting 11/18/14



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 190 BOONE IA USA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Magazine Subscription Dept
PO BOX 5532
HARLAN IA 51593-3032

